

Mubarak opens 'national dialogue'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak opened a national dialogue between diverse political groups Saturday aimed at combating Muslim militant violence. The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood was barred from the talks, because the government refuses to recognise it as a legitimate party (see page 3). "We all agree on the need to take a strong stand against groups resorting to violence and terrorism and to safeguard stability and legality," Mr. Mubarak told the 250 participants from various political groups invited to attend the government-sponsored dialogue. Mr. Mubarak denied that the call for dialogue was a sign of government weakness in the face of Muslim fundamentalist violence. "Some people have misinterpreted the call for dialogue, thinking it was motivated by pressure and the state's need for a common stand to counter the problem of terrorism," he said, referring to parties which refused to take part in the event. The liberal Wafd Party and the Arab nationalist Nasserites boycotted the dialogue, calling it a farce.

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Palestinian police graduate in Gaza

GAZA (R) — The first group of 168 Palestinian police officers to be trained locally graduated in Gaza city on Saturday after a one-month course. "Your duty is to maintain law and order. This is the first team to be graduated on our homeland," Palestinian security chief Major-General Nasser Youssef told the officers. The blue-uniformed force, known as Abu Jihad Brigades, includes 112 traffic and 56 emergency police. Its first woman officer, Inas Shalabi, will be responsible for training policewomen. Palestinian security forces trained elsewhere took over control of most of the Gaza Strip and Jericho under the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace deal in May with Israel.

Dole wins Iowa straw poll

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Senate minority leader Bob Dole has won an Iowa straw poll of 1,349 Republicans in a preview of the party's likely contenders for the White House in 1996. But it was not an overwhelming victory for Mr. Dole, who captured 356 votes, or about 25 per cent, to 205 for former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander and 200 for Texas Senator Phil Gramm. Vice President Dan Quayle received fewer than 100 votes.

Gulf states report violations of pact

ASU DHABI (AFP) — Companies in the Gulf are violating an 11-year-old regional economic pact by forging commercial documents to evade customs tariffs on their exports, an official Gulf body said Saturday. In a letter to member states, the Riyadh-based secretariat of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) proposed strict measures to stop violators from forging certificates of origin for their products. "Violators should be punished either by a heavy fine or a ban on their exports to member states for a definite period," said the letter. Under the 1983 economic accord, exports by one GCC state to another are exempted from customs tariffs provided they are locally produced or the venture is controlled by national investors. The accord has prompted the six members to demand certificates of origin for any exports to ensure they meet requirements.

India's smuggler hero dies in comfort

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Haji Mastan, India's most famous smuggler, whose rags-to-riches story and bravado made him a household name for decades, died in the western city of Bombay on Saturday, the Press Trust of India said. Mastan, 72, died in a plush nursing home in an exclusive south Bombay suburb after suffering a heart attack, the news agency said. The dark, rangy former dock worker from the southern state of Tamil Nadu spread terror in Bombay, his adopted home, in the 1960s and 1970s through a series of vicious crimes linked to his smuggling empire. Mastan gave up his life of crime in the early 1980s and entered the construction business in Bombay.

6 killed in Somali fighting

MOGADISHU (R) — Six people were killed and 68 wounded in fresh gun battles between militias of powerful warlords General Mohamed Farah Aidede and Ali Mahdi Mohammad in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Saturday, medical sources said. A doctor at the Benadir Hospital in the heart of Mogadishu said he had received 58 wounded Somalis, many of them women and children, with severe gunshot wounds, and five died.

Sanaa forces press bid to capture Aden

U.S. demand for truce unheeded

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN FORCES pressed ahead with their thrust to capture the southern stronghold of Aden with the besieged city reportedly under heavy artillery and rocket barrages for a third straight day Saturday.

Western diplomats quoted their contacts in Aden as saying an average of one shell or rocket per minute was being fired on the Indian Ocean port city, which has been ringed by northern forces for most of Yemen's seven-week-old civil war.

But there was no indication of any major territorial gains along the front, about 20 kilometres from the centre of the city, said the diplomats, who spoke in exchange for anonymity.

Northern warplanes Saturday bombed a residential area of the city, wounding an unspecified number of people, after southern anti-aircraft batteries chased them away from "vital economic establishments," the south's Aden News Agency reported, without elaborating.

Northern reinforcements were seen headed toward Aden in recent days, including 30 tanks and several trucks loaded with ammunition.

The northern-based government in Sanaa has not commented on the military situation in several days.

But attacks on Aden intensified last week after United Nations envoy Lakhdar Brahimi failed to broker a settle-

ment in talks with the northern and southern leaders.

The main goal of the north's new offensive, which gained strength Thursday, was to capture Aden airport and an adjacent air base on the northern outskirts of the city to undermine the southern secessionists' air superiority.

Since the war started May 4, the south has relied on its air force to counter the north's numerical supremacy. Relentless air strikes on the north's supply routes and forward positions have prevented the fall of Aden.

The south claimed Thursday northern forces were attacking residential areas and vital installations and said more than 800 civilians had been killed or wounded since Sunday.

The shelling hit a district called Little Aden, west of Aden.

"Where are the deadlines and the United Nations ceasefire calls?" asked an alarmed resident as northern shells hit Little Aden.

Little Aden's refinery halted operations earlier this month after northern gunners set three storage tanks ablaze. The area also has southern missile and artillery batteries.

A senior southern official told Reuters northern troops were trying to enter the western section of Aden to cut it off from the rest of the port city.

"By doing so, they are committing suicide. Battles are very hot right now and

Sanaa is sending wave after wave of steel and humans," the official said.

"The north is not abiding by the ceasefire resolution or by the American warning," the southern official said.

On Friday, U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said: "Northern forces should cease their bombardment of Aden immediately, avoid ground action against the city and pull back their rocket launchers and artillery."

"Further military operations will require urgent Security Council consideration," he said.

A southern military statement said three northern warplanes tried to hit Aden air base on Saturday. It said several people were wounded and houses were damaged when one of the aircraft dropped its load on a residential area.

Three civilians were killed when a shell hit an Aden school housing civil war refugees in the northern suburb of Mansoura, civil defence sources said earlier on Saturday.

A Northern envoy arrived in neighbouring Oman on Saturday with a message from President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Oman now holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council and diplomats say it is one of several Arab states backing a southern request for an emergency council meeting to discuss the plight of Aden's 400,000 residents.

Deal close on Iraq pipeline

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq and Turkey are close to meeting U.S. and U.N. demands over the flushing of oil from a pipeline linking Iraq's Kirkuk fields to the Mediterranean coast, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said on Saturday.

Twelve million barrels of oil are trapped in the rusting pipeline, which has been idle since sanctions were imposed on Baghdad during the Gulf crisis in August 1990.

"Most of them (problems) have been solved. We narrowed the circle to almost some technicalities to be worked out in New York," Ozden Sanbark told Reuters before leaving Baghdad.

Mr. Sanbark, Turkey's Foreign Ministry under-secretary, arrived in Baghdad on Thursday to hear Iraq's views on a technical resolution that will have to be issued by the Security Council before the pipeline is flushed and refilled with oil.

Mr. Sanbark said his visit, the second to Iraq in less than three months, achieved major progress.

"But I cannot say that we reached our goal to obtain a technical resolution from the Security Council."

"There is more work to be done... (but) both sides hope the matter will be finalised in the near future," he said.

Mr. Sanbark said the oil in the pipeline would not be injected to oil markets and no transfer of money would be made to Iraq.

The United States insists that any pact between the two sides should not violate Security Council resolutions imposed on Baghdad as a consequence of invading Kuwait in 1990.

He said Iraq had agreed to transfer the proceeds, estimated at \$200 million, to a U.N. escrow fund, 30 per cent of which would go for 1991 Gulf war victims and other expenses.

The remainder of Baghdad's share, he said, would be used to buy food and other urgent humanitarian needs.

He did not say when he expected the flushing to start, but Ankara wants to begin in July and complete it in October.

Time is crucial since no work can be done in south-eastern Turkey and northern Iraq in winter.

The Turkish envoy also was discussing Turkish efforts to get U.N. sanctions on Iraq lifted.

Flushing the oil trapped in the twin 900-kilometre pipeline would provide Iraq with food and medicine, permitted under the sanctions.

But Western officials have stressed it will be a one-shot operation that will not signal an easing of the embargo.

Turkey was a key component of the U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

Rabbani forces seize key fort

KABUL (Agencies) — Forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani captured the strategic eastern Kabul fortress of Bala Hissar from their rivals Saturday, a military spokesman said.

"Bala Hissar fell into our hands at 5:15 p.m. (1345 GMT), but we are still under fire from the enemy," Commander Gadoh of the National Guard told AFP.

Bala Hissar was a major garrison for the allied forces of Mr. Rabbani's rivals — Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and ex-communist Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who have been at war with Mr. Rabbani since January.

The adjacent Hekmatyar-Dostum strongholds of Maranj Hill and the Old Microrayan housing estate have not yet been attacked by pro-Rabbani forces, the spokesman stated, although locals reported many rocket salvos fired against those positions.

Incoming rocket barrages

were mostly limited to the frontline areas, with the western Kabul suburbs of Khair Khana also coming under fire in the morning.

Initial reports said 10 people had been killed and 70 injured, many of them non-combatants, as rockets smashed down on residential districts and positions of Mr. Hekmatyar's forces, hospital doctors and officials said.

The fighting was the fiercest for several weeks in Kabul, where more than 2,500 people have been killed since the latest battle for supremacy between Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar began last Jan. 1.

Huge plumes of smoke billowed from around Bala Hissar as jets of Mr. Rabbani's forces bombed the hilltop position.

SU-22 and MiG-21 jet fighters screamed down from Mr. Rabbani's main air base at Baghram, 40 kilometres north of the capital, throughout the day. They made more than 20 raids on Bala Hissar

in the south of the city, witnesses said.

Mr. Rabbani's fighters fired hundreds of rockets and mortar bombs from bases scattered across the war-shattered city in a barrage that began at dawn. They concentrated their fire on Gen. Dostum's positions on Qasa Burj Hill, overlooking Bala Hissar.

United Nations officials had voiced fears this week that the battle for Kabul could intensify in the next few days in the run-up to the expiry of Mr. Rabbani's term in office next Tuesday.

Mr. Rabbani has refused to step down if no viable alternative is agreed and Mr. Hekmatyar had warned of renewed bloodshed if he did not go on time.

Mr. Hekmatyar held talks on Friday in the eastern city of Jalalabad with Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, leader of one of the more moderate former-guerrilla factions that make up the fractious coalition government to discuss Mr. Rabbani's resignation.



EU SUMMIT: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) shows the way to Austrian President Thomas Klestil (second left), Greek President Andreas Papandreu (centre) and European Commission President Jacques Delors (first left) and Irish Premier Albert Reynolds as European Union (EU) leaders pose for a picture in Corfu, Greece (see story on page 12)

Egypt welcomes Jordan-Israel move

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egypt welcomed on Saturday Jordan's recent moves towards a future settlement with Israel and said it was willing to extend help in the negotiations if asked to do so.

"We welcome the progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track in the same manner in which we welcomed progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track," Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in an interview.

"If His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government feel it is better to move matters to attain Jordanian national rights in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions we have to support and bless this outlook," Mr. Musa told Petra in a telephone interview.

Mr. Musa repeated Cairo was ready to help push forward all tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace talks launched in 1991.

Jordan and Israel agreed in Washington earlier this

month to start holding the talks inside their countries for the first time.

They announced a series of moves towards future peace including the creation of a cross-border national park and an Egyptian road link.

"Egypt's evaluation of the peace process is still positive," Mr. Musa said when asked how Cairo saw recent peace developments.

"The process is at a period of activity and Egypt hopes it will continue until it reaches the state of desired peace."

Mr. Musa said Egypt hoped similar progress could be achieved on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Jordanian-Egyptian ties, which hit record lows at the height of the 1990 Gulf crisis, have dramatically improved.

Emphasising the need for the Arab states to maintain contacts and consultations in the peace process, the Egyptian minister said his country advocates constant contacts among the concerned parties to overcome any problem

that could crop up in the peace process and even the process of coordination itself.

Denying that Egypt was planning to call for an Arab summit, Mr. Musa said that such a meeting must be well-planned for in advance and accepted by all Arab states.

But, he said, Egypt believes in close cooperation and solidarity among Arab countries, at the summit or other levels as long as such activity aims to serve the higher national interests.

Mr. Musa said Egypt expects the U.N. Security Council to take action on the Yemeni war.

"The fact that fighting continues in Yemen despite Security Council appeals does pose a problem," he said in Cairo. "That's what makes Security Council intervention probable."

But asked about press reports that some Arab heads of state would meet in Cairo on Yemen, he said, "that's not on the table at the moment."



Amr Musa

Mr. Musa said Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states agreed on the need for a ceasefire in Yemen and the start of dialogue between the parties.

The foreign ministers of the eight countries will meet in Kuwait next week and Yemen is expected to dominate the debate.

Talks begin Tuesday on widening self-rule

Rabin, Peres to meet Arafat during UNESCO gathering

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will resume talks on Tuesday in the occupied territories, PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said Saturday.

He said the talks had originally been planned for Monday but were put back "for technical reasons."

Negotiators would not meet in Egypt, as suggested on Thursday by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, but the talks "will be in the occupied territories," he said, although the place had not yet been announced.

Dr. Shaath said he would meet with Dany Rothchild, head of the Israeli military administration, instead of General Amnon Shahak who led the Israeli delegation at previous autonomy talks.

"Shahak is not any more the head of the Israeli delegation," he said, although there was no official army confirmation of the move.

He said the two delegations would first discuss the agenda for negotiations.

They would then talk about the release of prisoners, extending Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and completing matters which remained unresolved before the May 4 autonomy accord was signed.

Certain issues such as the exact size of the self-rule enclave of Jericho were put to one side so the signing ceremony could go ahead in Cairo, launching autonomy in the West Bank town and the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres will meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Paris on July 6, Israel Radio said Saturday.

The three men are due to receive the UNESCO peace prize at a ceremony on that date, and will use the chance to hold several meetings in the French capital, the radio said.

"Arafat is also expected to take part in a meeting of donor countries which have pledged financial support to back fledgling Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho."

Mr. Arafat is pressing the U.S. and Europe for more funds for the Palestinian self-rule government and aides said lack of cash, not politics, is delaying his historic move to Jericho.

Mr. Arafat despatched his economy minister to Washington and met with European ambassadors on Thursday to press international donors to accelerate the flow of funds for his administration, the aides said.

The aides, and European diplomats who met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis, told Reuters he has not set any new political conditions to his return to Jericho, delayed now for several weeks.

A firm date for the trip to Jericho has not been fixed, but PLO sources and European diplomats say it is likely to be by mid-July.

Israeli newspapers and radio stations said Mr. Arafat has set three conditions before he would enter the self-

rule areas: Release of all Palestinian prisoners, stationing international observers in the territories and lifting of restrictions on movements of PLO officials.

But Mr. Arafat aides denied they were conditions and European diplomats who met with Mr. Arafat said they had not heard about them.

"These are hot issues under discussion with the Israelis. They are of great concern for the Abu Ammar (Arafat), but they were not articulated as conditions for his trip," a close aide to Mr. Arafat told Reuters.

"I heard such reports and some Palestinian officials' statements suggesting that, but they are not accurate," another senior PLO official said, referring to comments Dr. Shaath made to Reuters in Jerusalem, accusing Israel of throwing up political roadblocks to the trip.

"The only problem for Arafat's trip is of donors funding flow," the PLO official said.

One of 16 European ambassadors who met with Mr. Arafat at the Greek ambassador's residence in Tunis, told Reuters the PLO chief was concerned about the delay in donor funding and wanted it speeded up.

"But he didn't set any political condition and didn't even talk on these issues," the statement said.

Likud threatens blockade

The Israeli opposition on Saturday threatened to physically block Mr. Arafat from

visiting Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin said in interviews published on Friday that Mr. Arafat had a right to worship in Jerusalem and only technical arrangements stood in the way.

But Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, vowed to prevent Mr. Arafat's entry to the Holy City.

"Arafat is coming in order to make a political statement that Jerusalem, on the eastern part of Jerusalem, is the capital of the Palestinian state that he intends to build," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel Radio's English service.

"I assure you we will take a firm stand. We will be there and bodily block Arafat's entry if he plans to come."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said he did not believe Mr. Arafat would visit Jerusalem without an Israeli invitation.

"The prime minister said that if Arafat would want to come and to pray in the mosque in Jerusalem, then he can do so," Mr. Shahal told the radio, but added:

"There was no invitation for Mr. Arafat to come and to visit Jerusalem and I still think that any political figure will not come to a place without having an invitation from the host country."

The state-owned radio said on Saturday it did not expect Mr. Arafat to make his historic trip to Jericho and Gaza until mid-July, when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was also due to visit.

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Home News

Parliament calls for halt to fighting in Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian Parliamentarians Saturday voiced their concern over the continued fighting in Yemen and urged a visiting Yemeni parliamentary team led by Mohammad Al Kabsi to help end the conflict and call for an immediate truce.

"We call for an immediate halt to bloodshed and we reiterate our support for Yemen's unity," said Speaker of the Lower House Taher Masri at a meeting with the Yemeni delegation.

For his part, the Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi said that Jordan was pained to see the fighting continuing and confrontation taking the place of dialogue and negotiation.

"The fighting in Yemen, he said, calls to mind the other sources of pain caused by the situation in Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia and the Gulf region in the past decades."

Mr. Kabsi said that the war in Yemen was not a conflict between the north and south or between the Socialist Party and the National Congress Party, but rather it stems from a mutiny against legitimacy and the constitution.

Sanaa has accepted a ceasefire and is willing to start a dialogue in light of the reconciliation document signed in Amman on Feb. 20, but "the mutineers have rejected the bid," said Mr. Kabsi.

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U.S. says Jordan's 'official' debt is \$650m

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's official debt to the United States, stand at around \$650 million, a formal U.S. statement said Friday amid strong indications that the Kingdom's efforts to secure debt relief from the U.S. could be bearing fruit.

It was the first formal U.S. public reference to the actual amount of the Kingdom's debts to Washington, accumulated during the 80s.

A written answer to a question raised at the State Department said: "Jordan owes approximately \$650 million to the United States government, not including contingent liabilities."

"Contingent liabilities" were defined as "loans made to private companies which

are guaranteed by the government of Jordan." The statement did not provide a figure for this category of debts, but it could be around \$25 million based on figures provided by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

CBJ figures show that as of Dec. 31, 1993, Jordan owed the United States JD 488.4 million — around \$674 million — of which JD 229.8 million, or \$322 million, were in bilateral loans and the rest (JD 258.6 million, or \$400 million) in export credit guarantees (the dollar figures are based on the present exchange rate of the dinar to the U.S. currency).

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, however, have put the total Jordanian debts to the United States at nearly \$1 billion. This meant the possible

inclusion of military debts, estimated at around \$380 million. But, no immediate official explanation was available.

Fahed Fanek, a noted Jordanian economist and columnist, said: "It is my understanding that all in all Jordan's debts to the U.S. are around the \$1 billion figure."

The CBJ figures showed that Jordan managed to reduce its bilateral debts to the U.S. from JD 311.9 million in 1991 to JD 229.8 million in 1993, but export credit guarantees went up from JD 161.9 million to JD 258.6 million during the same period.

His Majesty King Hussein said after talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton last week that the administration had promised to consider debt relief for Jordan.

Washington also promised to help the Kingdom's efforts to reschedule its debts to other countries, particularly members of the Paris Club of creditor governments.

It was not immediately clear whether the U.S. would be considering an across-the-board write-off of Jordan's debts as Washington did with Egypt and Poland. Such write-offs are related mainly to military debts and require congressional approval.

However, such debt relief may pose a problem for continued assistance from Japan, which, in principle, does not approve of debt write-off and believes in extending further credit to allow the debtor to continue structural reforms and repay the debts in their entirety. Egypt and Poland are no longer eligible for Japanese

assistance.

Dr. Fanek noted that it was relatively easier to write off military debts than those incurred as a result of guaranteed imports of commodities.

Information Minister Jawad Anani, who attended the Washington talks, said Thursday that the Clinton administration "gave a firm pledge" that it would consider cancelling Jordan's debts and help the Kingdom "obtain a reduction" in its debts to the Paris Club of creditor governments.

The steering group of the Paris Club is scheduled to meet Monday and Tuesday to discuss rescheduling Jordan's debts to the group, estimated at around JD 1.95 billion excluding around JD 880 million in principal and interest already rescheduled in previous negotiations.

UNESCO meeting to draw strategies for future

By Karouna Jadoun Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an era of social, economic and political upheavals, it is essential for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) to encourage creative thinking, and help member states to analyse rapid changes and draw necessary strategies that meet their own needs, said Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, education minister and chairman of the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO at the opening ceremony of the consultation meeting of the Arab National Commissions for UNESCO.

At the five-day consultation, held at the Regency Palace Hotel to discuss the preparation of the Fourth Draft Medium-Term Plan for 1996-2001 and Draft Programme and Budget for 1996-1997, Mr. Rawabdeh hailed "UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor's initiative for consultation and direct dialogue between member states, particularly the intellectual communities, on the brief working document to be discussed during the present meeting."

Mr. Rawabdeh mentioned Jordan's advances in promoting human rights, democracy and intellectual, political and organisational pluralism which, he said, "makes Jordan one of the countries that is sincere in its call for a just and comprehensive peace and respect for human rights."

In a brief address, UNESCO Deputy Director General and Assistant Director General for Science and

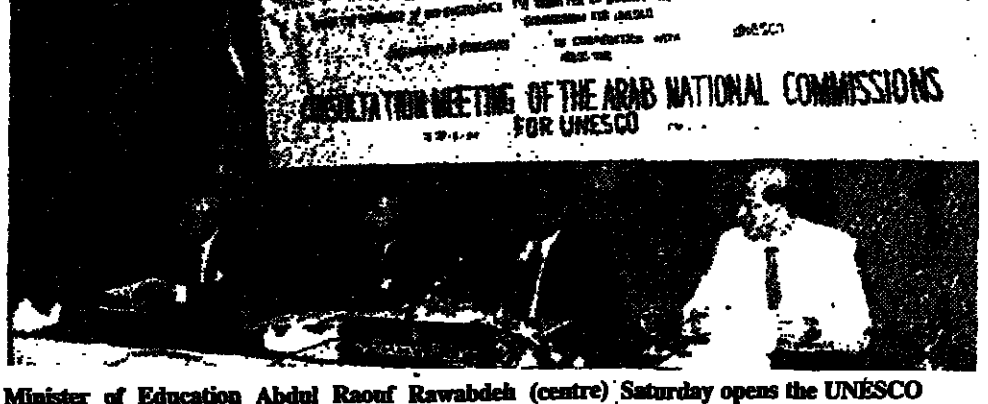
Technology Adnan Badran pointed to the emergence of a new world order saying, "(It's) role is exceeding terminating wars to guaranteeing freedom and prosperity of peoples and individuals as well as emphasising integrated development, democracy, intellectual pluralism... particularly in developing countries, a considerable number of which are living under the poverty line as a result of undemocratic acts."

Dr. Badran stressed that the consultation meeting is important in order to draw up UNESCO strategies such as the six-year Draft Medium-Term Plan with which the world will enter the 21st century.

"You are convening today to decide UNESCO's new policies for the 21st century," he said.

Dr. Badran emphasised the important fields that concern UNESCO such as a radical reform of educational systems, promotion of basic education for all to minimise illiteracy, reform of educational content and curricula to concentrate on democracy, understanding, love and peace between peoples, radical transformation and de-factualisation of higher education and research, particularly in the developing countries and strengthening of the contribution of science to human development.

The working document of the meeting, presented by Albert Sasson, assistant director-general of the Bureau of Studies, Programming and Evaluation, was, according to Mr. Sasson, designed to be thought-provoking and not a plan or a



Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (centre) Saturday opens the UNESCO consultation meeting of Arab National Commissions (Petra photo)

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"We need to hear their (member states) voices as clearly as possible. UNESCO is nearly 50-years-old so we need a kind of re-foundation of the whole U.N. system including UNESCO," Mr. Sasson told the Jordan Times.

"We are here to have answers to important questions such as: What is the role of UNESCO? What are its objectives? Then what are the concrete modalities to implement these goals? What are our priorities?" according to Mr. Sasson.

Another issue, he said, is identifying UNESCO's partners or constituencies.

He explained that civil societies are taking over an integral part of state affairs and therefore UNESCO is seeking a solution to the problem of interdisciplinary involvement and inter-related issues.

Mr. Sasson added that UNESCO is the only U.N. organisation that has National Commissions (NCs) to deal with UNESCO's large mandate which encompasses education, culture, science, information, communication, etc.

He said these NCs are necessary to represent the organisation and thus facilitate the decentralisation of activities away from the orga-

nisation's Paris headquarters.

The meeting is one of ten held by UNESCO at the sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.

Recommendations made at those meetings will be submitted to the organisation's executive board at its 145th session in October 1994.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mohammad Hamdan, president of Zarqa University and head of the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, was elected as chairman of meeting.

The representatives of the Lebanon National Commission and the Yemen National Commission were elected as rapporteurs.

Visiting parliamentarians seek to advance bilateral ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of a visiting Chilean parliamentary delegation, Mario Hamawi, Saturday expressed his country's total support for Jordan's endeavours to ensure the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in their homeland.

Speaking at a meeting with Minister of State for Judicial and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammoah, Mr. Hamawi said Chile highly appreciates His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards establishing peace in the region based on U.N. resolutions.

The parliamentary delegation represents the Arab community in Chile and a committee in parliament designed to bolster Chile's relations with the Arab World, said Mr. Hamawi.

Outlining the general condition of the Arab communities in Chile, Mr. Hamawi said its members are mainly involved in banking, industrial and trade sectors.

Other members of the delegation who spoke at the meeting with Sheikh Jammoah said they appreciated Jordan's continued assistance to the Palestinian people.

The minister outlined Jordan's stand and its efforts to establish peace and justice in the region.

Earlier Mr. Hamawi and his delegation met with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

They also met with Abdul Hadi Al Majali, head of the Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee, who outlined Jordan's efforts for peace and spoke about Jordan's economic difficulties in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The Chilean group later met with Marwan Awad, Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general, and learnt from him about the laws that grant exemptions to foreign investors in Jordan.

Adolescent arrested in killing of 12-year-old

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An 11-year-old youth Friday was arrested by police for killing a 12-year-old boy during a soccer game in one of Amman's suburbs, a police report said.

According to the report, Imad S. confessed to killing Sultan S. following an argument which ended with the adolescents throwing stones at each other.

In his testimony to police, Imad said he was playing soccer with his friends and during the match he and Sultan started arguing. He said Sultan cursed and threatened him. He said Sultan picked up a stone and threw it toward him but missed. In return Imad picked up a stone and threw it at Sultan striking him in the leg. Imad said he picked another stone and threw it at Sultan hitting him this time in the abdomen, but he did not intend to kill him.

Sultan was rushed to Al Basrah Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. The attending doctor attributed his death to internal bleeding.

Police said they have detained the youth until further investigation into the case.

Road accident kills two people

Two people were killed

and three injured, one critically Friday in a road accident in Al Rashidiyah area near Al Quoren town, a CDD report said.

According to the report, Khawla S.Z. (35) and her four-year-old son Imad died instantly when the car they were riding collided with two trailers.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the family was on its way to Aqaba. The driver of the car, Mohammad S.Z., was speeding and was preparing to overtake two trailers when he lost control of the vehicle and hit the first trailer. The impact then pushed the car under the second trailer; the car was dragged for more than 30 metres.

The family of five was rushed to Princess Haya Al Hussein Military Hospital where two were declared dead on arrival. The father (42) was listed in critical condition.

In a separate incident 41 people were injured, including 8 people listed in critical condition early Sunday morning in a road accident on the Mafraq-Khalidiyah road, police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the accident occurred when a trailer driver failed to stop at a stop sign and struck a bus coming from another direction.

Franco-Jordanian council formed to boost trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and French businesspersons Saturday formed a Franco-Jordanian Business Council at the offices of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) and announced their determination to boost trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Addressing a brief ceremony held on the occasion, the head of the 16-member French group currently on a visit to Jordan, Thierry Courtaigne, said the agreement for the joint council was expected to usher in a new era of closer trade and economic relations.

"Jordan plays a significant role in the Middle East region and French business groups are eager to establish strong relations with their counterparts in the Kingdom to promote bilateral trade and to encourage French in-

vestors to establish small and medium-size industrial concerns in the country," said Mr. Courtaigne who signed the accord along with Hamdi Tabbaa, the JBA president.

Mr. Tabbaa said that with the agreement the JBA hopes to lay the foundation stone of steady and progressive trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and France through the efforts of the private sectors in the two countries.

The JBA is confident of such cooperation in view of the historic ties between Amman and Paris and also in the light of expectations of the great opportunities available within the framework of a Middle East peace, said Mr. Tabbaa.

The delegation's visit and the establishment of the joint council were prepared for during last month's meeting in Paris of Jordanian and French businesspersons who

were sounding out possibilities of boosting economic cooperation.

The meeting in the French capital was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who was represented by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf.

JBA officials said that in 1993 Jordan imported from France commodities worth JD 98.5 million, up from JD 78 million in 1992, whereas Jordan's exports to France increased to JD 1.3 million, up from JD 900,000 in the previous year.

Jordan sells France fruits, vegetables and potash and imports a wide-range of products from television sets and cars to perfumes and cheese.

Mr. Tabbaa said after the signing that the JBA hoped the accord would help increase and diversify Jordan's exports to French markets.

Jordan Times Tel.: 667171

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In Jordan's best interest

WHEN Jordan agreed to join the Madrid peace conference less than three years ago, it did so out of its belief that negotiations were the best, if not the only, mechanism for finding an acceptable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan believed then, as it does now, that coordination among the Arab parties to the talks is a necessity without which the Arabs will be in a weak bargaining position against Israel, thus the Kingdom urged coordination and pronounced extra loud that the objective of the peace process should be a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Three years and much rhetoric after Madrid, however, it has become clear that Arab coordination is nothing more than a demand for some and only empty slogans for others. Jordan worked hard to redress this situation, especially with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. But its efforts failed to produce the desired results. It was time Jordan took precautions to make sure its interests were not overlooked, its role not marginalised and, therefore, it moved ahead with its talks with Israel.

Now some antagonists would want to portray these prospects for serious movement on the Jordanian-Israeli track as a deviation from the Kingdom's commitment to a comprehensive peace. This is of course absurd. It is a position that defies reality and an argument that falls to pieces when faced by the words and deeds of the country ever since, and before, the peace talks started.

The talks that Jordan will hold with Israel next month are governed by the agenda which Jordan signed with Israel in September last year, after the PLO and Israel signed their own declaration of principles. Nobody objected to the agenda then, nobody should object to the coming talks now. The objective of the agenda is to reach a peace treaty within the framework of a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The purpose of the coming talks is to find solutions to the problems that Jordan will not sign a peace treaty before resolving.

It is natural, therefore, that the Kingdom negotiates these problems with Israel so that when the time comes for discussing a comprehensive peace in the region Jordan will not find itself lagging behind others who, too, have been discussing problems of bilateral dimensions on their tracks.

By speeding up its negotiations with Israel, without compromising the principles that have guided its talks with Israel so far, Jordan will be taking important steps to protect its national interests. But it will also be contributing towards a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which cannot be attained unless all parties solve their bilateral differences with Israel.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday hailed the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States, saying that the visit has laid the ground for enhancing Jordanian-American ties in all respects. Thanks to the King's efforts, Jordan is now expected to receive economic help not only from the United States but also from the Paris Club in the form of reduction of the volume of its external debts and in the rescheduling of the remaining debts to foreign countries including the United States itself, said the daily. With respect to the other topics discussed by the King and the U.S. administration, the paper said that the visit offered a good chance for presenting Jordan's case with regard to the usurped Jordanian lands and water. At both the political and economic levels, the U.S. administration has displayed a great measure of understanding of the Kingdom's needs, said the daily. By all standards and measures, said the paper, the King's visit can be described as most successful and beneficial for his country and people.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Saturday drew attention to the need for the government to adopt very drastic measures against those wasting water or consuming excessive amounts for no good cause. Taher Al Adwan said that it has been confirmed by experts that the Kingdom was bound to face a drought due to the limited availability of water resources and the huge and growing demand for water supplies for agriculture, domestic use and industry. The coming 10 years are crucial for Jordan and most countries of the Middle East as they are bound to face a serious water problem that could lead to hostilities, said the writer. He said that it is no secret to say that the water issue is bound to replace the Middle East question and that it is important to take some action now to deal with the looming danger. The writer said that the concerned authorities should imprison those who wash their cars using hoses or those consuming excessive water amounts for swimming pools and those who drill artesian wells without permission.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

27 years of open bridges

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

The political, social and economic final results of an open-bridge policy applied over 27 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank are varied. However, no one can deny the obvious fact that this policy facilitated the gradual transfer of Palestinian population, to the detriment of the Palestinian cause, to the extent that you may now find more Palestinian Jerusalemites in Amman-Zarqa area than in East Jerusalem itself. Currently, the number of Palestinians in Jerusalem is estimated at 150,000, almost the same, if not less, than that of Israeli settlers. Demographically, the Judaisation of the Arab city is complete.

While the Arab population of Jerusalem was gradually declining due to migration, the population of the Gaza Strip more than doubled. Gaza became a human fortress and, from an Israeli point of view, a hopeless case as far as occupation is concerned.

It was natural under the circumstances that the leaders of Israel, even under the Likud, would flirt with the idea of unilateral withdrawal from Gaza. Israel was very close to leaving Gaza unconditionally when the Oslo breakthrough gave the Israelis substantial gains for doing what they would have liked to do anyway.

So much for the demographic dimension of the open-bridge policy applicable to the West Bank as a side-effect. What about the economic dimension?

The bridges were opened by a decision taken by Moshe Dayan in 1967, which Jordan allowed by inaction and default. The rules of the traffic across the bridges were set by Israel and tolerated by Jordan. Goods were allowed to move eastwards and prevented from moving westwards. People

were encouraged to cross the bridges eastwards but every trick was used to deprive them from returning. Israel collected hefty fees for crossing the bridges in both directions.

The cumulative surplus Israel was able to make in its balance of trade with the West Bank over 27 years reached \$7 billion, while Jordan made a deficit in its balance of trade with the occupied territories to the tune of \$2 billion.

Thus, Jordan unintentionally financed 30 per cent of the Israeli trade surpluses with the West Bank through increasing the capacity of the Palestinian market to absorb more Israeli commodities.

This unquieting fact is not in line with the spirit of Arab economic boycott to Israel. There is practically no difference whether we import \$2 billion worth of Israeli commodities directly, or enable a third party to import a similar amount of Israeli products. The benefits accruing to Israel are the same in both situations. Jordan's good intentions to support the Palestinian people under occupation and alleviate their suffering do not change this reality.

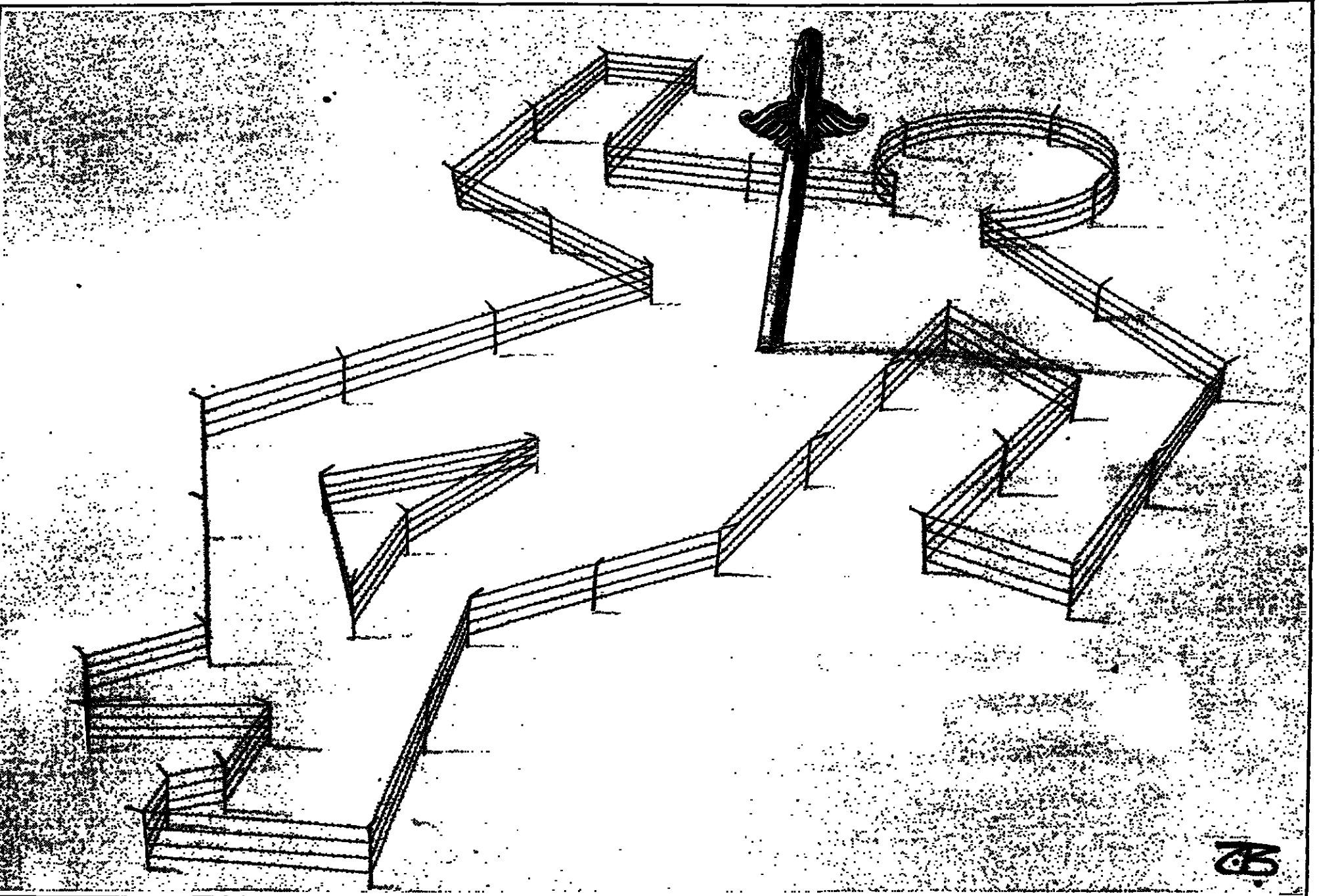
The policy of open bridges, and the acceptance of directed movement of goods over the bridges did not only help the Israeli balance of payments, it also caused hundreds of millions of Jordanian dinars to accumulate in the West Bank, there being the price paid for Palestinian shipments of vegetables, fruits and industrial products. Jordanian money amassed in the West Bank is estimated to range between 150 to 300 million dinars. Deposits in Jordanian banks in favour of West Bank residents could be double or triple that much. No attempt to calculate the amount has ever been under-

taken.

As usual, Jordan accepted these sacrifices at the expense of its own national interest, without economic agreements and tough negotiations with PLO. Instead of the appreciation of these economic sacrifices and demographic burdens, which Jordan is entitled to expect, the stock of dinars in the West Bank became a potential weapon which can be used against Jordan. The demographic structure on the other hand, became a weak point which we try to cover up by empty slogans of national unity.

The lesson is that Jordan should protect its own national interest first. Jordan should open a new chapter of sound and healthy relations with the newly-born Palestinian entity. The bridges should not be closed — it is too late and not advisable to do it now — but the movement of people should be strictly regulated and the freedom of our exports to the West Bank should not be restricted, otherwise we should have our own restrictions. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Interior moved in the opposite direction.

It is strange that so far the Jordanian government is too shy to set a passport point and a customs centre at the bridges. In fact, the flow of goods across the bridges eastwards and the flow of funds westwards are not accounted for in our national accounts. The published statistics of the Jordanian balance of trade, balance of payments and other national accounts is grossly misleading, because millions of dinars are not accounted for. Even after the official disengagement from the West Bank, in July 1988, Jordan did not consider the bridges as border points.



From G.H. Jansen
In central Italy

Italy's neofascists keep everyone guessing

EVEN in this little village, tucked away in the hills above Lake Trasimino (on the shores of which the Phoenician invader Hannibal inflicted on the Roman Empire one of the most decisive defeats in the annals of war) the talk is all of the emergence, or rather re-emergence of the neo-fascists on the Italian political scene.

Because, thanks to the new Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, the fascists for the first time since World War II, are back in government in Rome, thanks, too, to the votes of the Italian people in a free and fair general election; a preference which was repeated in the elections for the European parliament two weeks ago.

Outsiders, particularly Italy's European neighbours, wonder how the Italian people could vote for the fascists who, under Benito Mussolini, led Italy to defeat and humiliation in World War II, a war that the Italian people did not want to have part

of? The answer to that question is that the neo-fascists, now bearing the innocuous name, the "Italian Social Movement" (MSI) filled a big gap left by the collapse of both the Italy's traditional ruling parties: the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, both overwhelmed by the sheer weight of their corruption in accepting massive bribes from big business: the right-wing Christian Democrats and the "leftist" Socialists had an unspoken alliance on pillaging the Italian state.

And yet the reason for the fascist reemergence can be said to be the basic healthiness of the Italian body politic which has extruded, spewed forth, the corruption of the old parties that had governed the country for 50 years. The purge has even affected somebody like Giulio Andreotti, seven-time Italian prime minister and with a reputation of near sainthood. The same sort of extrusion is

overtaking the criminal network of the mafia.

And the neo-fascist MSI found it easier to fill that gap because it was a part of the centre-right coalition, called the National Alliance, put together by Berlusconi with the two other partners being his own Forza Italia, ideologically colourless but essentially the party of big business, and the Northern League, which would, sometime, in the future, like to see Italy broken into three autonomous areas of the north, south and centre. Thus, the neo-fascists were well camouflaged.

Since this coalition was put together before the election the Italian electorate knew that a vote for the National Alliance was a vote for the neo-fascists; and yet it won votes, suggesting that there must be a strong tendency towards authoritarianism in the Italian political psyche; it is surely no coincidence that

Mr. Berlusconi's own party is called "Forza" Italia.

After much bargaining the MSI was given one of the two deputy premierships, but none of the key ministries. Furthermore, because of the alarm expressed both outside and inside Italy at the re-emergence of the fascists, no supporter of Mussolini old enough to have taken part in World War II was given a cabinet position.

One of MSI's leading figures has said that the fascists did do many good things for Italy; that Benito and his men have been "forgotten"; that Benito was one of the greatest politicians of the 20th century; that there was nothing wrong with the fascist regime until, under pressure from its ally Nazi Germany, it passed anti-Semitic laws which were, however, applied in a very lax, typically Italian, fashion.

Thus, the neo-fascists keep the Italian people, and the

rest of Europe, guessing.

Because the two older parties were, publicly, riddled with corruption it was virtually impossible for politically decent voters to support them, so that, in a sense, the other parties including the MSI, gained support by default. As the old saying has it, "All that is necessary for bad men to win is that good men should do nothing — or for one time good men to become bad."

The neo-fascists gained by default in another way: Because they were deliberately excluded from power for 50 years they were, perforce, uncorrupted because they could not get their hands on the spoils of office which was the undoing of the other parties in power.

Alarm over the rise of neo-fascism in Italy was enhanced by the fact that it seemed to be echoed by the rise of neo-Nazism in Germany, but in fact the two cases are quite

different. There is no political vacuum in Germany where the political parties are strong, respectable and respected.

Two dangers face liberal democracy in Italy: One is that the fascists, given respectability, will gain in power. But at the moment there seems little danger of this happening because the expectation is that the present disparate coalition is not going to last very long, and that on its collapse a new and almost certainly very different coalition will have to be formed which would exclude the MSI but perhaps include the Communists, now calling themselves the Democratic Party of the Left, and a very different kettle of fish after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The other danger is the splitting up of Italy, as advocated by the Northern League. This is a possibility but not a probability because Italian unity is now too deeply rooted. There may, however, be some devolution of power away from Rome and towards the regions.

Commission could heal, or reopen, old wounds

By Anton Ferreira
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's new black-led government is portraying its proposed "truth commission" as a way of healing the wounds of apartheid, but critics say it could rub salt into them.

In announcing the commission early in June, Justice Minister Dullah Omar said reconciliation demanded the disclosure of human rights abuses including murder and torture during nearly five decades of apartheid.

But opponents of the idea, including present

Police Commissioner General Johan Van Der Merwe, argued that all sides were guilty of atrocities in South Africa's "dirty war" and the past should not be raked up now.

Mr. Van Der Merwe said senior members of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) could be embarrassed by revelations from the apartheid era.

According to the police, about 150 people, many of them civilians, were killed in the 14 years up to 1990 by ANC guerrillas.

The ANC has also been accused of torturing and

killing its own members in prison camps in Angola and other African countries during its years in exile.

On the other side of the war, human rights monitors say security forces detained without trial and tortured tens of thousands of people, including children, and killed hundreds of real or suspected anti-apartheid activists.

White right-wing leaders have been unanimous in opposing the truth commission.

Constand Viljoen, head of the Freedom Front right-wing group in parliament,

said the commission would be a propaganda exercise by the ANC. "If the details (of past abuses) become public, this will further hatred, not reconciliation," he said.

But Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and himself a victim of police torture during the apartheid years, said voluntary disclosure by the guilty was the only way to heal South Africa.

"There's the type of pain you cannot heal without confession or declaration," he told a recent seminar on

reconciliation.

"People feel they can forgive because that person who tortured them now understands that what he did was wrong."

In debating how a truth commission should operate, South African analysts have cited similar inquiries in Latin America where democratic governments replaced military dictatorships.

Hermann Giliomee, a political scientist at the University of Cape Town, said the success of the Chilean commission was due to its political balance between

left and right, a balance that he said was unlikely.

"In South Africa... proponents of a commission appear to have a highly partisan context in which they situate our recent history. For them, it is a case of the non-violent, essentially peaceful democratic movement versus a violent authoritarian regime," Mr. Giliomee said.

"Instead of regular courts with well-established rules for testing evidence we could get a commission with hand-picked politically correct judges setting up a separate system of justice."

French emotion, power politics behind Rwanda move

By Nelson Graves
Reuters

PARIS — France's expedition to Rwanda may be aimed at saving civilian lives but it is also tinged with power politics and Paris' long legacy of colonial influence in French-speaking Africa.

France first raised the possibility of leading an outside intervention force on June 11 — more than two months after the start of bloodletting which has claimed an estimated 500,000 lives in Rwanda.

Paris has justified the long delay by saying it only became clear over time that U.N. forces would be unable to step in to stop the carnage for another few weeks at the earliest.

"It's no longer time to stand by with arms crossed and deplore the massacres, but to take steps," said Foreign Minister Alain Juppé who, with President François Mitterrand, has led the drive to send French troops.

But the tardiness of the mission has stirred deep suspicion about France's motives.

The rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) has accused Paris of "cynical and Machiavellian intervention" to check their accelerating advance against Hutu-dominated government forces, which between 1990 and 1993 were armed and trained by France.

"The tragedy that we are suffering stems from all the deals and manoeuvres by France aimed at keeping in power the party of president (Juvénal) Habyarimana," RPF head Alexis Kanyarengwe said, referring to the Rwandan leader killed in April.

Amnesty International (AI) has urged France to probe charges one of its military units trained Rwandan death squads.

"France has always intervened to lend a strong hand to leaders whom their people do not want at the head of their country," the Association of African Nationalists in France said.

Some Western diplomats suspect France cynically wants to take advantage of the withdrawal of Rwanda's former colonial ruler, Belgium, to increase its influence in the region.

France's true motivation appears to mix outrage in the face of genocide with a desire to defend its credibility as a major power in Francophone Africa, according to officials and experts.

Historian Jean-Pierre Chretien, an expert on central Africa, said guilt was a paramount factor.

"It's a question of clearing our conscience," he said, noting France's long-time support for the Hutu-



A legionnaire of the 2nd Foreign Infantry Regiment loads his luggage on a vehicle prior to boarding an Andropov 125 transport plane for Zaire, June 23, at the Istres air base in southeastern France. The soldier is due to take part in "Operation Turquoise," the French mercy mission to Rwanda (AFP photo)

led government accused of turning a blind eye to the massacres.

Public indignation at the killings took time to build up. The massacres were not qualified by the government as "genocide" until May, which lent new intensity to media coverage.

The emotional trigger was news on June 11 that Hutu extremists had kidnapped 170 mainly Tutsi tribe members being sheltered by two European priests, most of them children, had all been butchered.

The slaughter came two days after Rwandan rebels murdered the Archbishop of Kigali and 12 other clergymen. The killing of orphans and clergymen — two emotion-charged symbols — touched a special chord within the French government, officials said.

In the absence of U.N. intervention, France stood out as the top candidate to lead an expeditionary force. It is a member of the U.N. Security Council, has long experience in Africa and, with troops spread throughout the continent, was able to dispatch thousands of soldiers to the region in a matter of hours.

Mr. Chretien said many French officials, particularly African experts surrounding Mr. Mitterrand,

remain obsessed with protecting Paris' interests in Francophone Africa.

Rwanda holds a special position because it is on the cusp between French- and English-speaking parts of Africa, with neighbours Uganda and Tanzania as former British colonies, and Burundi and Zaire as part of Belgium's former overseas empire.

"The government made this decision... because of its old and lively ties of solidarity with Africa," Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said.

France's push to protect its clout has an economic component. While there is little at stake in Rwanda, Zaire — where the French force is based — is rich in mineral resources.

Some French officials believe the need to maintain strong ties in central Africa has been heightened by South Africa's emergence from apartheid and the prospect that it will one day extend its economic influence to the region, Mr. Chretien said.

To top off French motives, Mr. Mitterrand is widely said to want to avoid leaving office next year with the stain of having stood by silently in the face of genocide in Rwanda.

"The president is thinking of history," an official told the daily Le Figaro.

Russia, West head for new deal, but can they make it?

By Nicholas Doughty

Reuters

BRUSSELS — Russia and the West, emerging from a distinctly rough patch in their post-cold war relations, seem on course for a new arrangement that will bind them in a web of political, economic and military relations.

The question now is whether both sides can fulfil the hopes they have raised and keep the promises they have made.

Russia needs the riches and technical skills of the West to meet the enormous challenges of transforming its shattered economy, as well as political ties to maintain security.

But the West needs Russia just as much. Without a stable Russia, there is little chance of real stability in Europe.

Those mutual needs were underlined on Wednesday when Russia and NATO pledged a new era of wide-ranging military and political cooperation and Moscow signalled it no longer opposed Eastern European states joining the alliance.

The landmark deal between the former enemies drew a line under recent disputes on issues ranging from Bosnia to arms control and ended bitter complaints from Moscow that the alliance was ignoring its concerns and status as a major power.

But it was not the only sign that, on the surface at least, things are getting better between the West and Russia.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced in Brussels their two countries would hold a summit meeting in September and moved closer to agreement on how to deal with such problems as Bosnia and North Korea.

The 12-nation European Union cleared a deal on



Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev (R) shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (C) while Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

Vitaly Churkin (L) watches the scene prior to the signing of NATO's peace programme of military cooperation at headquarters in Brussels June 22 (AFP photo)

Wednesday to boost political, economic and trade ties with Russia. That agreement will be signed this week by President Boris Yeltsin at an EU summit on the Greek island of Corfu.

Mr. Yeltsin will also attend a summit of the world's richest nations — the Group of Seven (G7) in Italy next month, the first time Moscow has been invited to such a gathering for political consultations.

"By widening the reach of the great post-war security and economic institutions, we can help ensure that war, poverty and

oppression never again engulf this continent," Mr. Christopher said on Wednesday in Brussels.

But the problems ahead could prove formidable.

Russia's government, under heavy pressure from hardliners sceptical of the West's intentions, is struggling to push through economic reforms and facing a wave of organised crime.

As a result, the West is unwilling to pump large amounts of fresh cash into the Russian economy or admit it to full membership of organisations such as the G7 or NATO.

Moreover, Russia's view of how security should evolve in Europe is still fundamentally different from the West's vision. Moscow wants a bigger role for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which groups more than 50 nations.

"It would be totally unrealistic to expect there will be no difficulties, no problems on the road," Mr. Kozyrev said.

While he said Moscow could now accept that NATO will take in Eastern European states, Mr. Kozy-

rev warned the alliance not to move hastily. NATO officials still remember similar comments made by Mr. Yeltsin last year, after which he abruptly changed his mind.

"The Russian position could change again. No one really knows," said one alliance official.

This will partly depend on how far the West makes good on its promises that it will not isolate Russia. As Eastern European states queue up to join NATO and the European Union, Moscow fears that it could be left out.

Dehaene's stealth candidacy shot down by Britain

By Jeremy Gaunt
Reuters

CORFU, Greece — Jean-Luc Dehaene, blocked by Britain as the next European Commission (EC) president, is a blunt-speaking wheeler-dealer whose "stealth" candidacy for the European Union (EU)'s top job caused ill-feeling far beyond London.

His name was floated early this year through newspaper leaks and private whispers by France and Germany, the two powerhouses of the European Union, which were uneasy with the prospect of Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers taking the post.

Mr. Dehaene, 53, remained uncharacteristically silent, refusing even to confirm that he was running in

the race until one week before the Corfu summit at which the decision was to be taken.

That stubborn silence — and the feeling among some member states that they were being railroaded by their two big brothers — caused resentment which crystallised in a British veto on Saturday.

In the run-up to the summit, Mr. Dehaene was portrayed in the British press as a radical federalist bent on pursuing European integration and concentrating ever-greater power in the hands of the EU executive in Brussels.

In fact, his views on Europe are unexceptional. Like most Belgians — and many continental Europeans — he is a fervent believer in political union as a way of prevent-

ing future wars between Europe's great powers. For him, 50 years of peace after three great wars in less than a century vindicates that doctrine.

And Mr. Dehaene's track record at the head of the Belgian government shows that he is no lover of centralised power. He presided over the country's decentralisation into linguistic regions and is accordingly well-tuned to the ideal of devolving power.

Mr. Dehaene won high marks during Belgium's stint in the second half of last year as EU president. He oversaw the entry into force of the controversial Maastricht Treaty, brokered a deal sharing out the sites of EU institutions and secured endorsement of a white paper on growth

and competitiveness.

Portly and occasionally coarse, Mr. Dehaene is as different in style from Jacques Delors, the philosopher king who has served in Brussels for the past 10 years, as chalk from cheese.

But appearances are deceptive.

Known in Belgium as the "minesweeper" for his ability to clear away explosive issues, Mr. Dehaene has shown political skill and a keen sense of compromise in holding together fragile Belgian coalitions.

His skills as a head-knocking deal-maker have seen his government through recession, the first general strike in half a century, a spate of corruption scandals, and widely unpopular spending cuts and tax hikes.

To emerge relatively unscathed from this in a country that has the added complications of three official languages, 13 parliamentary parties and, under Belgium's federalist system, four semi-autonomous regional governments, is no mean feat.

Passionate about football and classical music, Mr. Dehaene is often seen cheering on his favourite soccer club in Bruges. A week ago, he was guest commentator on Belgian television during Belgium's World Cup match against Morocco.

Born on August 7, 1940, in Montpelier, France, where his family fled during World II, Mr. Dehaene studied law and economics at Namur University. A Roman Catholic, he is married with four children.

Britain's police seek better protection against criminals

By Sean Maguire

BIRMINGHAM, England — Faced with a growing prospect of being stabbed, shot or hit with a blunt instrument, Britain's "bobbies" on the beat are shopping for protection.

Armour plated vests, knife resistant jackets, longer batons and immobilising sprays are some of the items senior police officers are being urged to buy to protect the traditionally unarmed British constable.

But delays in testing protective equipment and restrictions on their use have angered rank and file officers who believe they are facing increasingly violent and well-armed criminals while not properly equipped themselves.

The equipment was on prominent display at a recent international conference for European police chiefs in this central English city with salesman reporting strong local interest.

"Our body armour sales are up by 30 per cent," said Anthony Spencer of Aspen International Limited, a company that describes itself as physical protection consultants.

"The ordinary beat officer is not getting issued with these vests, they are only going to firearms teams, so individual officers are buying their own vests. They feel it is cheap life insurance — £390 (\$590) buys you the Rolls-Royce of body armour," said Mr.

Spencer.

His competitors agreed with his rosy sales forecast for the wrap-around upper body protectors that come in male and female sizes and in some cases can be hidden beneath a uniform shirt.

"I've sold 1,150 sets of knife and ballistic resistant vests to police forces since Christmas," said Michael Sacks of Armourshield Limited. But he agreed that still meant most constables went on patrol with only their truncheons.

"Criminals on the street are using new weapons and it is the ordinary beat officer who is encountering them," said Mr. Sacks.

Although armed response vehicles patrol the streets of Britain's cities, with new rules making it easier for crews in London to use their weapons, casualty figures show it is ordinary unarmed policemen who suffer the majority of attacks.

Two police officers have been killed in London and two seriously injured in the last year in shooting and stabbing incidents that all occurred when no violence was expected.

The 100,000 police officers on the streets of England and Wales suffer more than 13,000 assaults a year according to figures from Britain's Home Office (interior ministry).

Some senior officers say calls to better protect or even arm the police ignore

the fact that the figures show the threat to policemen is no worse than it has been before.

Recent opinion polls have shown neither the public nor the police themselves want to end Britain's rare tradition of not routinely protecting its beat policemen with guns, although there was public support for the police having some easier access to weapons.

But without guns Britain's cops say they are struggling to find ways to deter attacks by criminals who have less compunction in using deadly weapons than the police.

A senior police officer has warned of increasing numbers of black market firearms being smuggled into Britain from America by crack cocaine dealers. He also said that weapons were being hired from gangsters on a "rental" basis and used for killings.

There have been regular discoveries of gun hordes belonging to organised criminals in the northwestern city of Liverpool and police say they fear weapons easily available in eastern Europe could soon filter across the channel into Britain.

The Police Federation, the organisation representing Britain's policemen, has criticised the government for not doing enough to protect its members from what it insists is a growing threat.

"We expect you to de-

clare that the days when we sent a lone police officer on the beat, armed only with a Victorian truncheon, have gone for good," Richard Coyle, the retiring federation chairman told Home Secretary (interior minister) Michael Howard in a speech.

But Mr. Howard promised only limited help — no protective vests offering sufficient protection and comfortable enough for a day's duty have yet been developed, he said, and pepper sprays that can be used to immobilise attackers may prove carcinogenic.

In his one concession he said that the British "bobby" may soon be equipped with the American-style extendable side-handled baton, meeting one of the demands of the federation.

Previous attempts to replace the old-fashioned truncheon with a longer baton foundered after television images of the device being used by Los Angeles police to beat an arrested man were aired in Britain.

Whether the introduction of the new baton, which can be used with a variety of judo-style moves to thwart attackers, will be enough to calm police fears is unclear.

New Police Federation Chairman Fred Broughton said: "The service is very reluctant to go down the arming route. Not carrying a gun is central to our relationship with the public, but we are facing a very basic issue of health and safety."



A British policeman manning a London street (AFP photo)

Dollar still ill despite central banks' booster

LONDON (R) — Central banks led by the U.S. Federal Reserve came to the aid of the dollar Friday but the currency got only a brief lift and dealers said the authorities might be fighting a lost cause.

The dollar gained 1.5 yen and 1.5 pence on the concerted intervention. But by the close of European trade it was down to 1.5855 marks and 100.45 yen, back where it stood before the hefty dollar-buying some 17 central banks.

Later said the lame response by the dollar underlines the authorities' dilemma.

"What are they going to do about it? These are natural market forces here. That's the way it goes," said Juergen Linemann, head of foreign exchange at British Bank Standard Chartered in London.

"Generally investment flows are favouring Europe again. One just has to live with that," Mr. Linemann said, adding, "I still maintain that intervention alone will not turn the tide. It requires policy changes."

The intervention ended days of speculation as to when central banks would act after the dollar earlier this week reached 99.85 yen, its lowest level since World War II, and a 1994 low of 1.5875 marks.

The dollar by the European close on Friday was even below late Thursday levels, when it finished at 101.10 yen and 1.6010.

Dealers said the dollar was hardly showing a strong enough bounce to indicate it was off to a healthy recovery.

"We need to see several days' successful intervention to remove that element of doubt from the market," said Martin Kay, corporate foreign exchange adviser at U.S. bank Lehman Brothers in London.

Mark Austin, currency economist at British bank Midland Global Markets in London, said that as with a previous bout of concerted intervention on May 4, the effect of Friday's action was likely to be fleeting.

"Yes it will take the dollar higher. But give it a couple of days to settle down and then you'll find the sellers come back," Mr. Austin said.

Many central banks confirmed they had intervened. U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said the United States and its partners in the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations were cooperating to support the dollar.

"Our actions today in cooperation with our G-7 partners and other monetary authorities reflect a shared concern about recent developments in financial markets," Mr. Bentsen said.

Central banks that either confirmed or were sighted Friday featured those of all the G-7 members — the United States, Japan, Germany, Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom — plus Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

Traders estimated as much as 2-3 billion worth of dollars had been bought, although some doubted it totalled that much. In the May 4 intervention round, about \$3.5 billion was reck-

oned to have been bought. Financial analysts said central bank were spitting into the wind by buying dollars now.

"The market hasn't been overly impressed with this," said Jeremy Hawkins, senior economic adviser at BankAmerica. "It's something they have been waiting for some while and the reaction this time is even less than it was at the beginning of May."

The central banks must change policy in order to turn the dollar and that could come at the July 8-10 meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations or possibly before, analysts added.

"We must have something much more aggressive in terms of verbal intervention coming out of the U.S. administration, backed up with intervention, then policy changes," Mr. Hawkins added.

Analysts said with Japan not likely to ease policy and Germany not likely to cut interest rates aggressively in the near-term, it was up to the United States to raise

rates if it really wanted to prop up the dollar.

"They should have waited for a spike down and people were short and then blasted them," said Tony Norfield, treasury adviser at ABN-Amro. "There were plenty of comments around that the market was squaring up in case the central banks came in."

Analysts said the intervention on May 4, which was a Wednesday, was harder hitting because the market midweek is more liquid than it is on a Friday.

"You need something in context with the intervention," said David Cocker, economic adviser at Chemical Bank. "You need a rate move or a trade talk breakthrough, or something like that to back it up and give people a fundamental reason to buy."

Despite the diatribe against the central banks from some quarters, others were not so sure it was such a silly move.

"Central banks will ultimately win the war but this

the battle they are prepared to lose," said Nick Parsons, head of treasury advisory group at CIBC. "There is no surprise in intervention on a quiet Friday afternoon."

He was of the view that this intervention was designed to be predictable and Friday's action was simply going through the motions. "If this is seen to fail the market will be tempted into taking some huge short dollar positions, at which point you could see the mother of all interventions," he said.

Both dollar/mark and dollar/yen were back at levels seen before the intervention at 1.5860 marks and 100.45 yen. Traders noted the underlying bearish tone of the market. Last Friday a forecast from a U.S. business research group that the dollar could fall 10 per cent in the next 18 months saw it lose two pence.

"This Friday the combined efforts of 17 central banks had no impact at all," said one trader. "I think that shows just how bearish the market still is."

British press barons locked in struggle

LONDON (R) — Newspaper tycoons Conrad Black and Rupert Murdoch are locked in a British newspaper price war no one can win, wiping tens of millions of pounds off profits, media analysts said Friday.

The escalating struggle could threaten the survival of the weakest members of the British daily press.

"Murdoch's and Black's egos have taken over from their brains," said an analyst from a major broking house. "It's commercial suicide."

Black's Daily Telegraph, fearing inroads in its circulation from News Corp Ltd.'s flourishing upmarket daily The Times, cut the price of its flagship Daily Telegraph to 30 pence (46 cents) on Thursday. It was instantly trumped by The Times, which cut its own price to 20 pence (31 cents).

"Two right-wing ideologies have set about destroying the quality market," the editor of their ailing rival, The Independent, said on the front page of his paper.

Mr. Murdoch should have understood there are rarely any winners in price wars, Andreas Whitman Smith said.

"What we are witnessing is a return to the industry's ugly past, dominated by proprietors inebriated with the power that newspaper ownership is thought to bring," he pointed out.

The Independent, now the most expensive upmarket mainstream daily, is considering a more permanent price fall after a one-day 30 pence cut to 20 pence on Thursday.

Opposition Labour Party spokesman on industry, Robin Cook, said he has asked the Office of Fair Trade

ing (OFT), which investigates predatory pricing complaints to look at the issue.

"It is unacceptable that a loss-making newspaper like The Times can cut its cover price by 55 per cent in less than a year, by relying on being subsidised by the profits from other parts of its owner's empire," Mr. Cook said.

Mr. Whitman Smith said he too would consider a complaint to the OFT, although it rejected a similar one last year when The Times first cut its price.

Media industry analysts say the next risk for the sector is escalation of the battle into the middle market, where the right-wing tabloid Daily Express has been badly hurt since Mr. Murdoch started the price war last year.

A United Newspapers director, Alan Frame, said his company could not rule out price cuts. The Express, and its more successful mid-market rival The Daily Mail, are both now at 32 pence (49 cents). One analyst said a cut to 20 pence would wipe out the Daily Express's profits and leave it at break-even.

Daily Mail spokesman were not available to comment on its plans but analysts believe it is unwilling to join the fray.

Warburg analyst Lorna Tibbani said the Daily Mail's parent company, Associated Newspapers, was keen to use its British newspaper revenue stream to build up other media businesses.

That is the reverse of the strategy now being used by Mr. Murdoch and Mr. Black, who seem willing to wave goodbye to big chunks of their profits in the drive to grab circulation.

Wall Street stocks drop sharply on interest rate worries

NEW YORK (R) — Blue-chip stocks posted their biggest one-day loss in almost three months Friday as a failed attempt by central banks to prop up the dollar fuelled worries that the Federal Reserve (Fed) may hike interest rates to help the currency.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off a steep 62.15 points to close at 3,636.94, its biggest single-day decline since it lost 72.27 points on March 30 of this year.

The Dow's loss for the week of 139.84 points was the largest drop since the week ended on Oct. 13, 1989, when it plunged 216.26 points.

On the broader market, declining issues swamped advancing ones, with 1,887 to 383 trading of 61 million shares.

The NASDAQ index dropped 7.06 points to 693.79.

Analysts said the market was clearly worried about the prospect of an interest rate hike after the Fed and 16 other central banks were unable to stop the dollar's descent despite numerous rounds of dollar buying.

"It's a bad day for stocks, bonds, currency, right across the board," said James Volk, director of equity trading at Jensen Securities.

"People slapped the central bank in the face," Jay Ferguson, analyst at Ferguson, Andrews Associates said of the limited impact of the intervention Friday.

"If the central bank can't prop up the dollar by buying

it on the open market, the only way you'll do it is by raising rates," he said.

Wall Street is concerned that while higher interest rates may boost the dollar's investment value overseas, credit tightening will further cool the economy and erode corporate profits. The Fed has raised rate four times this year.

Signs of an economic revival in Europe and Japan have pushed up interest rates abroad, drawing international investors away from the dollar. That comes at a bad time for the United States, as it is becoming more dependent on foreign capital to finance a widening trade deficit.

To make matters even worse, U.S. investors are busy moving money overseas as they seek to diversify their portfolios, further increasing pressure on the dollar.

Analysts said it may take higher U.S. interest rates to turn the fundamentals around. The risk, however, is that higher rates will slow the economy to such a degree that investors will flock to nations with better growth prospects — prompting more dollar sales.

Senior U.S. officials have said that the Federal Reserve Board expects economic growth to slow to a more sustainable pace in the second half of this year but that it stands ready to raise interest rates further if needed to achieve that.

Strong yen bedevils Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — The number of jobs in Japan is dwindling as companies, driven by the stronger yen, shift production overseas, particularly to Asia, according to a report by the labour ministry released Friday.

"The impact on domestic employment cannot be ignored," the ministry said in its annual report to the cabinet.

The ministry estimated that 70,000 jobs were lost because of the shift to overseas production in the fiscal year ended March 1992. Unemployment rose from 2.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent in March 1994 before slightly falling to 2.8 per cent in April.

The ministry said direct investment overseas is expected to continue to grow in Asia, centring on China.

It said investment had been growing particularly in Indonesia and China because of low wage costs.

The report added that, due to the prolonged economic slowdown, real income last year dropped 0.8 per cent from a year earlier, the first year-on-year drop in 13 years.

Total work hours shrank last year for the fifth consecutive year to 1,913, falling 59 hours from the previous year, it said.

Also, the report said recession-hit major Japanese companies are forcing subsidiaries to accept employees transferred from the parent firms, causing an adverse impact on labour management.

The ministry said the upward trend in unemployment is "cyclical," but warned that if the economic slowdown

continues, the jobless rate among the young would grow and there would be an acceleration in labour adjustment of white-collar jobs, leading to "structural" unemployment.

Japan's industries need to enhance technological innovation while facilitating regulation to boost labour productivity, the report said.

According to a survey, assets held by Japan's listed companies in the year to March were 0.6 per cent down from the previous year, for the first year-on-year decline in 20 years.

The survey by the Nihon Keizai newspaper, a major business daily, covered the nation's 2,006 listed companies, excluding banks, securities and life insurance firms.

The decline reflects corpo-

rate moves to streamline financial assets in the fallout from speculative financial investment, and to reduce inventories due to sluggish sales, the daily said. It also noted a decline in fixed assets held by manufacturers.

Analysts say corporations may be forced to further streamline their assets in the days ahead, the daily said.

Assets of the 775 non-manufacturers, edged down 0.02 per cent year on year, while those of the 1,231 manufacturers surveyed, fell 1.3 per cent, it said.

Notably, assets in the iron and steel sector fell 3.2 per cent and those in the auto industry fell 3.1 per cent, while chemicals dropped 2.9 per cent and precision machinery was down 2.4 per cent, the daily said.

IMF approves \$684m loan for Philippines

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a loan worth \$684 million in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to support the Philippine government's economic reform programme.

The loan for 474.5 SDRs was granted Friday under the IMF's extended fund facility, an IMF statement said.

The IMF said the credit will be made available over the next three years to offset balance of payment problems stemming from reforms to liberalise the economy.

In 1993, economic growth in the Philippines improved under the liberalisation programme, but it was

accompanied by a rise in inflation, burgeoning trade imbalance, and declining international reserves, the IMF said in a statement.

"The main aims of the 1994 programme are to achieve a growth rate of about 3.5-4.5 per cent, to reduce inflation to 8.5 per cent by year-end, and to limit the current account deficit to under five per cent of GNP, while rebuilding gross international reserves to 3.4 months' worth of imports," the IMF said.

"While fiscal policy will remain essentially unchanged, monetary policy initially will be tightened and then maintained on a steady course," it said.



A two-day conference was organised by Rover International for Land Rover and Rover Cars distributors from the Middle East, North Africa and Subcontinent. The 48-delegate conference which was held at the Dubai Marriott Hotel, was headed by director of sales for the region, Ken James and consisted of presentations and workshops aimed at outlining product and marketing plans for 1994/95. Photo shows delegates from the Rover International conference enjoying an evening reception at the Dubai Creek Golf and Yacht Club.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 26, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can easily rise above some minor difficulties in the A.M. and make it a productive day as long as you are agreeable with associates instead of trying to force issues. Relax and enjoy the day.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take time for meditation early in the day and adopt the right philosophy for the future. Make this a worthwhile day to catch up on last minute tasks.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study your relationship with friends and know where they fit best in your future plans. Catch up on your rest today for a new work week.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Seek the company of influential persons who can be helpful in furthering your career. Devote the evening to your loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to advance with the assistance of important and clever individuals who you know. Strive for happiness with your family.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A good time to make plans which could give you more abundance in the days ahead. Don't be taken in by doubtful persons who you are not sure of.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to gain more benefits from relationships you now have. Forget that easy chair and be more active and happy by doing some exercising.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good day to come to a better understanding with family members. Plan how to show gratitude and increase harmony with family and friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Arrange to be with friends you truly like for the recreation you desire. Plan the week ahead so that it becomes more productive with any project.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make plans to improve your status in your line of endeavor. Take your loved to charming places in the evening you both will enjoy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day to study whatever is spiritual and educational. Visit friends and relatives and express happiness with being around them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study new methods and ideas which can bring you greater income in the future. Make needed repairs to your property which have been neglected.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make the right arrangements for gaining personal aims. The evening is best for being with persons you enjoy the company of.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- Cupbearer to the gods
- Religious society
- Use an ax
- Seed covering
- Flower in Asia
- Magician
- Tobias
- Partner
- More peculiar
- Pastor
- Inveterate
- 24 The one that got away
- 28 Date
- 32 New Zealand native
- 33 That girl
- 34 - a (singer)
- 35 Dicks
- 39 Words by Keats
- 40 Moray
- 41 Minimal
- 42 Badger State
- 43 So-so grade
- 44 Star
- 46 In the dumps
- 47 De - (too much)
- 48 Subdued
- 51 Daze
- 56 MARYS
- 58 Before: prof.
- 59 Tiller
- 60 Small buffalo
- 61 Dam in a stream
- 62 Nightingale
- 65 White
- 66 (London)
- 9 Long, linen vestment
- 10 Unrefined
- 11 Retained
- 12 Story opener
- 13 Member of the nobility
- 14 Roman general
- 15 Imposture
- 24 Form an arch, old style
- 25 - Arabia
- 26 Shakers for papers
- 27 Music, drama
- 28 Knockout count
- 29 - a "stranger"
- 30 Fat
- 31 Preface
- 32 Holbrook
- 34 Holy ones: abbr.
- 36 Vain
- 37 Victory sign
- 38 Transluc
- 43 Mohammedan
- 44 Most loyal
- 45 Turn
- 46 Passenger mail
- 47 Gateway to
- 48 Shinto shrine
- 49 Tops
- 50 Conductor
- 51 Farm structure
- 52 Ties it easy
- 53 Hero of opera
- 54 Sign of life
- 55 Hair
- 57 Seize

DOWN

- Laughing
- Parody
- Areas for storage
- City in Nevada
- Army
- 6 Sings
- 7 Borders upon
- 8 Alaskan city
- 11 Unrefined
- 12 Story opener
- 13 Member of the nobility
- 14 Roman general
- 15 Imposture
- 24 Form an arch, old style
- 25 - Arabia
- 26 Shakers for papers
- 27 Music, drama
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- 47 Gateway to
- 48 Shinto shrine
- 49 Tops
- 50 Conductor
- 51 Farm structure
- 52 Ties it easy
- 53 Hero of opera
- 54 Sign of life
- 55 Hair
- 57 Seize

Yesterday's Puzzle Subsid:

ACROSS: 1. BASHA, 2. BASHA, 3. BASHA, 4. BASHA, 5. BASHA, 6. BASHA, 7. BASHA, 8. BASHA, 9. BASHA, 10. BASHA, 11. BASHA, 12. BASHA, 13. BASHA, 14. BASHA, 15. BASHA, 16. BASHA, 17. BASHA, 18. BASHA, 19. BASHA, 20. BASHA, 21. BASHA, 22. BASHA, 23. BASHA, 24. BASHA, 25. BASHA, 26. BASHA, 27. BASHA, 28. BASHA, 29. BASHA, 30. BASHA, 31. BASHA, 32. BASHA, 33. BASHA, 34. BASHA, 35. BASHA, 36. BASHA, 37. BASHA, 38. BASHA, 39. BASHA, 40. BASHA, 41. BASHA, 42. BASHA, 43. BASHA, 44. BASHA, 45. BASHA, 46. BASHA, 47. BASHA, 48. BASHA, 49. BASHA, 50. BASHA, 51. BASHA, 52. BASHA, 53. BASHA, 54. BASHA, 55. BASHA, 56. BASHA, 57. BASHA, 58. BASHA, 59. BASHA, 60. BASHA, 61. BASHA, 62. BASHA, 63. BASHA, 64. BASHA, 65. BASHA, 66. BASHA, 67. BASHA, 68. BASHA, 69. BASHA, 70. BASHA, 71. BASHA, 72. BASHA, 73. BASHA, 74. BASHA, 75. BASHA, 76. BASHA, 77. BASHA, 78. BASHA, 79. BASHA, 80. BASHA, 81. BASHA, 82. BASHA, 83. BASHA, 84. BASHA, 85. BASHA, 86. BASHA, 87. BASHA, 88. BASHA, 89. BASHA, 90. BASHA, 91. BASHA, 92. BASHA, 93. BASHA, 94. BASHA, 95. BASHA, 96. BASHA, 97. BASHA, 98. BASHA, 99. BASHA, 100. BASHA.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

Travel Agency

"I'd like to take my wife to a romantic little hideaway that has satellite TV with at least 100 channels plus HBO and ESPN."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arpison

Unscramble these four Jumbles: one letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

RYTAR

LEVVA

STRAIG

RUTSLY

What the church remodeler does.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

SWER: HE

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOVEL WHOOP JESTER NOTIFY

Answer: What they thought their boat was — "SEE" WORTHY

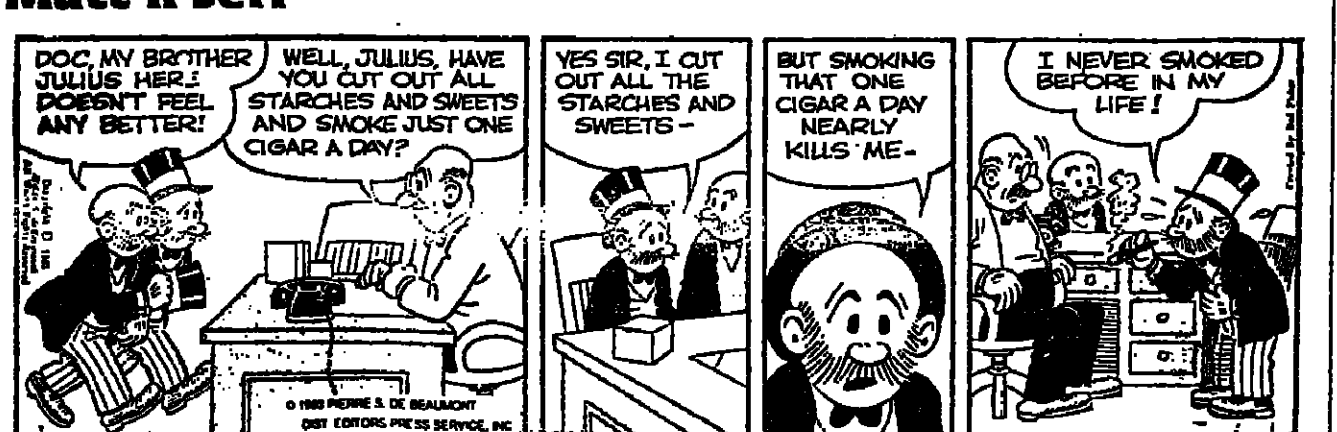
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



June 26, 1994

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 23/6/94	New York Close Date: 24/6/94
Sterling Pound	1.5385	1.5525
Deutsche Mark	1.6040	1.5640
Swiss Franc	1.3505	1.3277
French Franc	5.4830	5.4285
Japanese Yen	101.35	100.53
European Currency Unit	1.1949**	1.2097

European Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.1200	4.3100	4.6800	5.1200
Sterling Pound	4.7500	4.9300	5.1800	5.6800
Deutsche Mark	4.7500	4.7500	4.7500	5.0000
Swiss Franc	3.9300	4.0600	4.1800	4.3700
French Franc	5.2500	5.3700	5.5800	5.8700
Japanese Yen	1.8700	1.8700	2.1200	2.3700
European Currency Unit	5.8100	5.8700	5.6400	6.2500

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0674	1.0727
Deutsche Mark	0.4330	0.4361
Swiss Franc	0.5177	0.5203
French Franc	0.1266	0.1272
Japanese Yen	0.0639	0.0673
Dutch Guilder	0.3874	0.3892
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000

Italian Lira

Currency	Bid	Offer
Italian Lira	0.0440	0.0442
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8220
Lebanese Lira	0.040730	0.041925
Saudi Riyal	0.1831	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3270	2.3860
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1877
Egyptian Pound	0.2010	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7680	1.8740
UAE Dirham	0.1867	0.1877
Greek Drachma	0.2880	0.3210
Cypriot Pound	1.3505	1.4390

Arab Gulf countries feel little impact of world stock, dollar crisis

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A fresh plunge in key world stock markets and the U.S. dollar has had little impact on Arab Gulf states although their currencies are pegged to the greenback and most of their assets are based abroad, regional bankers and economists said Saturday.

But the tumble in the dollar to its lowest level since World War II underscores the plight of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states as they struggle to contain sharp fluctuations in their income due to unstable oil prices, they said.

"The latest dollar problem

again shows the need for Gulf states to delink their currencies from the U.S. dollar and peg them to a more stable basket of currencies," a United Arab Emirates (UAE) bank manager said.

"Any fall in the dollar means a fall in Gulf currencies and a higher import bill from non-dollar countries. I think the latest fall has so far had a limited impact but if the decline continues, the price will be high," he pointed out.

The currencies of five GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — are theoretically

pegged to the Special Drawing Rights, the unit used by the International Monetary Fund.

But in effect, they are tied to the U.S. dollar while Kuwait's dinar is linked to a basket of currencies, in which the dollar accounts for more than 40 per cent.

Reluctance by some members to separate their currencies from the dollar has blocked GCC plans to align their currencies in line with their 1983 economic agreement, which calls for a common Gulf market.

The six members had originally planned a single Gulf currency, the dinar, but dropped the project as unrealistic. A recent proposal envisaged a basket of currencies, in

which the U.S. dollar will have the upper hand.

"I believe such a proposal is a good compromise," a UAE banker said.

"It could satisfy member states which have reservations on delinking their currencies from the dollar or those which argue that they should stick to the dollar because it is the official price of oil," he added.

Experts said a continuously weak dollar hurts GCC economies because member states rely heavily on imports from Japan and other industrial countries.

Exports by Japan alone to the six members stood at around \$10 billion in 1993 while those by the European Union exceeded \$20 billion.

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Inflation is Nigeria's main problem

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military rulers, unable to curb spiralling inflation which is pushing millions of Nigerians closer to the poverty line, have promised to review their economic policies.

Military ruler Sani Abacha, already under pressure from pro-democracy groups to quit, has acknowledged shortcomings in his administration's economic policies.

"We are aware that due to the mismanagement of the past and some shortcomings in the implementation of our current fiscal and monetary policies, the performance of the economy is not as we planned or desired," he said.

"There is consequently hardship in the market place and the expectations of our people for quick prosperity have not yet been fulfilled," he told civilian political leaders.

"We are determined to monitor and review the economic policies in place with the view to taking corrective measures as appropriate."

Inflation has pushed millions of people on fixed incomes closer to the poverty line in a nation whose per capita income has dropped to about \$250 from \$1,000 in the oil boom of the early 1980s.

Prices of most goods continue to rise despite the military government's policies to curb inflation.

The Lagos-based Guardian newspaper has said prices of consumer goods have risen by up to 100 per cent since January.

"Inflation is still the country's number one economic problem," Tony Ede, central bank spokesman, told Reuters.

Independent analysts said economic controls introduced in the calendar 1994 budget to stem inflation and stimulate growth had not worked and may have aggravated Nigeria's problems.

The government in January fixed the exchange rate at 22 naira to the dollar and outlawed the autonomous market where the dollar sold for more than twice this amount.

It also pegged interest rates on savings at between 12 and 15 per cent and placed a 21 per cent ceiling on lending rates.

The changes marked a retreat from International Monetary Fund-backed reforms begun in 1986 to mend an economy hurt by low output, corruption and over-reliance on crude oil sales.

The government had hoped that by lowering the cost of funds, local producers would be induced to cut their prices. The budget aimed to cut inflation to 15 per cent from 100 per cent at end-1993. This has not happened.

The Guardian cited examples of rises in prices of household goods.

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U.S. blames Muslims for Sarajevo sniper deaths

SARAJEVO, Bosnia — U.S. officials have continued to blame Muslims for the deaths of American soldiers in Sarajevo, Bosnia, during the recent conflict.

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If the July 1 session goes ahead, representatives of Bosnian parties will be invited to Geneva the following day to go over the details.

The plan would receive final approval from the five powers when they attend a group of seven meetings in Italy the following week.

Meanwhile, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord David Owen, co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference on former Yugoslavia, were expected in the Croatian capital Zagreb Saturday, officials said.

The two mediators for the United Nations and European Union (EU) were expected to meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, the officials added without giving further details.

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GLOBAL FORUM OPENS: Global sponsored Rio Summit, opens Friday at the Forum '94, the most important conference on Free Trade held in British city of Manchester since the 1992 U.N. (AFP photo)

B-52 bomber crashes in flames in U.S.

SPOKANE, Wash. (R) — A B-52 bomber crashed and exploded in flames at Fairchild Air Force Base in eastern Washington state, killing all four crew members aboard, officials said.

Base spokeswoman Jennifer McDonald said the plane crashed at 2:16 p.m. PDT (5:16 p.m. EDT) (2116 GMT) as it was approaching for a "touch and go" manoeuvre in which it would have descended as if for a landing and then taken

off again.

CBS news carried an amateur videotape that captured the crash and explosion of the plane.

McDonald said the B-52 was assigned as a trainer to the base 13 kilometres west of Spokane, which until last month had been home to a major fleet of the bombers.

With the end of the cold war, the base's mission has been changed to one of support for a fleet of air fuel tanker planes.

The disaster is the second to strike the base community this week, after Monday's rampage by a former airman with an automatic rifle who killed four people and wounded 22 before he was shot dead by a military policeman.

Major stands isolated in Europe

CORFU, Greece (R) — British Prime Minister John Major stood alone in Europe once again Saturday, sending strong signals to Euro-sceptic members in his badly divided Conservative Party.

Echoing the battles fought by his predecessor Margaret Thatcher on the European stage, Mr. Major refused to back Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene as the next president of the European Commission.

Europe has been a recurring nightmare for Mr. Major, whose deeply unpopular government has been buffeted by two years of internal divisions, policy U-turns and scandals. His popularity has plunged to an all-time low in opinion polls.

Mr. Major, brought to the brink of defeat last year by Conservative rebels over ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union, could face a challenge to his leadership after a string of summer election defeats.

Another defeat over the successor to EU Commission President Jacques Delors — or a climbdown acceptance of Mr. Dehaene — would have been another body blow.

Struggling to maintain party unity and quell the Euro-sceptics, he campaigned in the European Parliament elections for a multi-speed, multi-layered Europe.

He stood firm against more integration, arguing the European Union would break up unless it was allowed to develop more flexibly. Resisting centralism, he preached deregulation and free trade.

Mr. Major insisted there was no personal animosity involved in his resistance to Mr. Dehaene, who had to be nominated unanimously.

He told fellow European leaders: "We're nationally to enter into our calculations the selection of our next president would be an affront to everything that our community stands for."

"Europe is full of talent. I am confident that a period of consultation between the presidency and all member states will produce a candidate that will have the support of us all," he added.

Mr. Major has already been humiliated once this year when he was forced into an embarrassing climbdown over his resistance to extending majority voting in the European Union.

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Salinas rejects resignation of minister

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — President Carlos Salinas rejected the resignation Friday of Interior Minister Jorge Carpizo, a spokesman for the president's office said.

Just 10 minutes earlier, Mr. Salinas' office had announced that Mr. Carpizo — the number two official in the government — resigned, pledging not to return to political life.

The two men met at the Los Pinos presidential residence for "a long, private conversation," the president's office said in a statement. There was no indication as to whether Mr. Carpizo might stay on, but the talks were to continue over the weekend, Mr. Salinas' office said.

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The two men met at the Los Pinos presidential residence for "a long, private conversation," the president's office said in a statement. There was no indication as to whether Mr. Carpizo might stay on, but the talks were to continue over the weekend, Mr. Salinas' office said.

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U.S. lawmakers seek resignation of Surgeon General

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eighty-seven opposition Republican members of Congress asked President Bill Clinton to fire the outgoing U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders.

In a letter to Mr. Clinton the House of Representatives members accused Mr. Elders of using his office "to fight parents and churches" instead of sickness and disease.

The letter came two days after Mr. Elders, according to newspaper accounts, referred to the "un-Christian religious right" and added, "We've got to be strong to take on those people who are

selling our children out in the name of religion."

The letter did not specifically mention those remarks but they were cited often at a news conference by Rep. Cliff Stearns, author of the letter, other lawmakers and spokesmen for conservative Christian organizations.

The letter said Ms. Elders "has not chosen to utilize her position to advance the general health and welfare of all Americans. But rather to advocate views antithetical to the majority of citizens."

It asked Mr. Clinton to request her resignation.

Ms. Elders and her spokesman were not immediately reached for comment.

At the news conference outside the capital, Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., said Ms. Elders had "forfeited her right to be Surgeon General of the United States," and head the U.S. Public Health Service.

Clinton lashes out at religious right

ST LOUIS (R) — President Bill Clinton Friday angrily attacked the religious Christian right and conservative radio talk shows as cynical outlets for spreading "scurrilous" misinformation about him and his record.

The president took aim specifically at Jerry Falwell, the Christian right leader who has been promoting a \$40 videotape on his syndicated cable television show, "the old time gospel hour," which implies that Clinton is involved in a number of mysterious deaths in his home state of Arkansas.

"I do not believe that people should be criticised for their religious convictions. But neither do I believe that people can put on the mantle of religion and then justify anything they say or do," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton thus threw his weight behind attacks by Democrats this week on the Christian right for its rising influence in the Republican Party.

California Democratic Representative Vic Fazio this week was quoted as saying the "fire-breathing Christian radical right" were forcing more mainstream Republicans to the right fringe,

and that it controls the GOP in at least 15 states.

All 44 Republican senators quickly denounced the Fazio broadside Thursday and urged Mr. Clinton to repudiate it. But Mr. Clinton did not.

In a radio interview with St. Louis station KMOX aboard Air Force One on the flight from Washington to St. Louis, Mr. Clinton angrily shouted into the microphone when asked about the videotape Mr. Falwell has been promoting.

The videotape, entitled Circle Of Power, relies on interviews from longtime Clinton opponents Larry Nichols and Gary Parks of Arkansas. "There were countless and countless people that mysteriously died that as it turned out had some connection to Bill Clinton. I believe this is going on today," Mr. Nichols says in the tape.

Mr. Falwell has been showing excerpts of the videotape on his show and offers an 800 number to call to purchase it.

Said Mr. Clinton: "Look at who he's talking to. Does he make full disclosure to the American people of the backgrounds of the people that he's interviewed that have

made these scurrilous and false charges against me? Of course not. Is that in a good Christian spirit? I think it's questionable."

Mr. Clinton implied that Mr. Falwell was making money from the very things he preaches against.

"Remember that Jesus threw the money-changers out of the temple. He didn't try to take over the job of the money-changers," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton, who blames a conservative misinformation campaign for his health care reform plans, has been on a tirade this week against people who constantly spread negative news, including talk radio shows and the news media in general.

The most popular and well known host of talk radio shows is Rush Limbaugh, who has a devoted following of millions. Mr. Clinton mentioned Mr. Limbaugh specifically in his radio interview and, talking to police officers and community volunteers at St. Louis' Fox Park, explained his problem with the phenomenon called "talk radio."

"If you talk about hope, you're derided as being naive. If you're really good at

German tourist survives fall from 15th floor

COPENHAGEN (R) — A German tourist survived a fall from the 15th floor of an apartment building after he bounced off an electric cable and onto a tree top before hitting the ground, police said Friday.

Eduard Pattera, 19, was sitting on balcony railings when he was blown off by the wind. He suffered only bruises in the 50-metre plunge. "It must be the miracle of the century," said a police spokesman.

Museum to sell Da Vinci manuscript

NEW YORK (AFP) — A Leonardo Da Vinci manuscript that includes the Italian artist's designs for the snorkel and submarine will be put up for sale by a Los Angeles museum, Christie's auction house said. The nearly 500-year-old papers fetched a record \$5.6 million for an autographed manuscript in 1980 when it was sold to the late oilman Armand Hammer.

The Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Centre in Los Angeles is selling it. The manuscript — 18 sheets of paper folded in two — is expected to fetch more than \$10 million when it is auctioned on Nov. 11 at Christie's, a spokeswoman said.

Dove's death hits military show's peace plans

LONDON (R) — A symbolic celebration of peace planned for Britain's top military spectacle has been hit by the death of a dove that was to star in a key biblical scene.

Organisers of the royal tournament, in which Britain's armed forces show off their skills, chose the end of the cold war as their central theme. But Jupiter, the dove trained to carry a laurel leaf in its beak and land on the hand of an actor playing the biblical Noah, died earlier this week.

Moscow fines McDonald's for poor lighting

MOSCOW (AP) — In Moscow, at least, the golden arches aren't enough. City officials fined the world's busiest McDonald's for not having a nighttime sign that identifies it as a restaurant.

The city levied a 1.2 million ruble (\$600) fine, saying McDonald's also should provide better lighting along the sidewalk in front of its Pushkin Square restaurant, a newspaper reported Friday.

"Walking past the restaurant at night, an uninitiated person finds it hard to understand what sort of business it is," said a city inspector quoted by the daily Moskovskiy Komsomolets. Moscow requires all businesses to clearly indicate day and night what merchandise or service they offer. Russian-run stores, restaurants and other businesses largely ignore this and other city rules.

Albania using Communist classics to make boxes

TIRANA (AFP) — Albania is planning to pulp almost two million copies of Communist classics by Lenin, Stalin and local dictator Enver Hoxha currently gathering dust in libraries and recycling centres as cardboard boxes and packaging, a Culture Ministry official said Friday.

Dashor Kozonozhi said the works of the late father of Albanian communism, Hoxha, were printed on good quality paper in Austria and would be recycled to print new books.

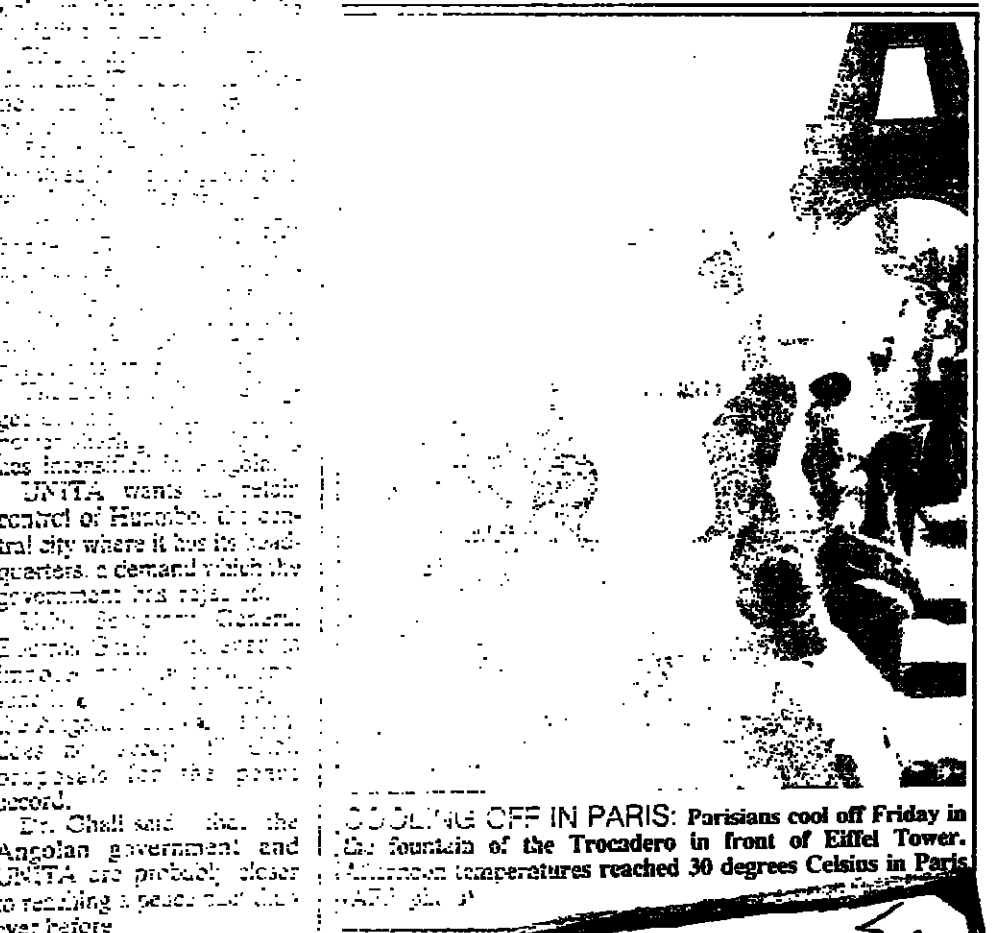
Colombia drug cartel threatens terror

BOGOTA, Colombia — The feared Medellin drug cartel, thought to be the most powerful in the world, has threatened to prepare a series of terrorist attacks if its demands are not met.

The cartel, led by Pablo Escobar, has threatened to prepare a series of terrorist attacks if its demands are not met.

Police said Friday they were investigating the tape. They had no comment on reports that two bullets had been sent to their headquarters in Bogota in an envelope to back up the threats but did confirm the Medellin cartel was making a comeback and had around 160 men ready to strike.

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COOLING OFF IN PARIS: Parisians cool off Friday in the fountain of the Trocadero in front of Eiffel Tower. Summer temperatures reached 30 degrees Celsius in Paris.

مكتبة لاس Vegas

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran, Russia discuss Karabakh

TEHRAN (AFP) — A Russian special presidential envoy discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Iranian officials here Saturday. Russian sources said, Vladimir Kazimirov, who heads Russia's efforts to mediate between Azerbaijan and Armenia, met Morteza Bank, an Iranian Foreign Ministry expert on the Caucasus region, and was "satisfied" with Iran's response to a peace plan proposed by Russia last month, the sources said. Armenia has accepted the plan to end the six-year conflict, but Azerbaijan has rejected it. Iran, which made several unsuccessful attempts to broker an end to the conflict in the past, said it would work with Russia to restore peace in Nagorno-Karabakh. Nearly 20,000 people have died in fighting since the Armenian majority in the enclave declared secession from Azerbaijan in 1988. Azerbaijani President Gaidar Aliyev is due to visit Iran on Wednesday.

5 gunned down in S. African township

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Five youths aged between 10 and 20 were shot dead by gunmen while walking down a street in Tokozza black township east of here, police said Saturday. Two youths were injured in the attack late Friday, police spokeswoman Captain Janine Smith said. She said the motive was unknown but police did not believe it was political. Tokozza in recent years has borne the brunt of political violence, which has been blamed on feuding between supporters of President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and their rivals from the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party. Since South Africa's first all-race election in April which brought Mr. Mandela to power, however, political violence in the ghetto has declined dramatically, police and violence monitors say.

Left wins Warsaw local elections

WARSAW (AFP) — Poland's ruling left-wing coalition parties won last weekend's local elections in the capital Warsaw, according to partial official results published Saturday. The former communist Alliance of the Democratic Left and Peasant's Party won 48 seats in the city council, compared to 31 for the opposition centre-left Union for Liberty. A coalition of right-wing parties won 30 seats. In the southern city of Krakow, however, a coalition led by the Union for Liberty won control of the city council with 26 seats against 18 for the Alliance. 13 for a Solidarity trade union coalition and 10 for the right. Final results of the elections, which had a low turnout of only 35.8 percent, are due to be published at the start of next week.

U.K. soldier charged with murder

BELFAST (R) — A soldier serving with the British army in Northern Ireland was charged in court Saturday with murdering a Catholic in an attack claimed by an outlawed Protestant guerrilla group. Neil Irwin, 24, a private in the locally-recruited Royal Irish Regiment, was accused in court of murdering a father of four who died when a booby trap bomb exploded under his lorry in Portadown, south of Belfast, in March. The attack was claimed by the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), which has been targeting ordinary Catholics in an attempt to scupper Anglo-Irish peace talks. They fear the talks may weaken the province's links with London and lead to a united Ireland. Irwin, who was also charged with four separate murder bids, did not speak at the hearing but a police inspector told the Belfast court he had replied "no" when he was formally charged.

6-organ transplant announced in U.K.

LONDON (AP) — A 32-year-old man who received six transplanted organs was released from the hospital Friday but doctors say he still has a long way to go in his recovery. Stephen Hyett received a liver, kidney, stomach, duodenum, small intestine and pancreas in March at Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridge. The operation had not been announced previously, and the hospital declined to give the exact date of the surgery. He has a condition called Gardner's syndrome, which can cause deadly tumours in the bowel and duodenum. Professor Sir Roy Calne, who headed the surgical team, said Gardner's syndrome was not a cancer, but a recurring fibroma. Hyett said, "at first they were only going to give me a new intestine and liver but when a donor finally came along and they opened me up they decided that the other organs had to be replaced as well. The first I knew about it was when I came round," he said. "Where I had an awful lot of pain before the operation I haven't got that now." Mr. Hyett said in an interview with BBC Radio. "Although I get a bit tired at the moment they said that would go with time. Otherwise I am fine."

13 injured in Belgium train crash

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Thirteen people were injured Saturday when a passenger train was hit by a goods train at Boechout, near Antwerp, the Belgian National Railways (SNCB) said. Nine of the injured were taken to hospital. The cause of the accident was not immediately known but a SNCB spokesman said the passenger train could have been going too slowly on that section of the line.

Ukraine chooses West or Russia in polls

KIEV (R) — Ukraine finds itself at a foreign policy crossroads in Sunday's presidential election, obliged to choose between incumbent Leonid Kravchuk's pro-Western stand and his main rival's calls to move closer to Moscow. Kravchuk has made much during the campaign of his reputation for trying to integrate the former Soviet republic into Western Europe during more than two years in office. His most serious challenger, former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, proclaims loudly at rallies and on television that Ukraine's future depends on restoring links with Moscow and dumping what he says is post-Soviet isolation.

Mr. Kravchuk is lauded by Western leaders for persuading Ukraine's recalcitrant parliament to give up the 1,600 strategic warheads that made the country the world's third largest nuclear power. "All high technology is based in the West. We must aim our efforts in this direction," Mr. Kravchuk said during the campaign.

"Without help, credits and investment we cannot right our economy. The G7 countries will soon be discussing Ukraine. But first we have to carry out reforms."

As former director of the world's largest missile plant, Mr. Kuchma is most at home in the former Soviet military-industrial complex. He raised eyebrows during months of disarmament debate by suggesting Ukraine should keep some of its missiles. "Under no circumstances must Ukraine be a counter-balance to Russia. We need the restoration of all economic, spiritual and cultural links with former Soviet republics, first and foremost with Russia," he said in a radio address to voters. "Never did I say anything about restoring the Soviet Union. But I oppose building an independent state on the basis of anti-Russian feelings. No one is waiting for us in the West."

A campaign video clip laced with pop music shows Mr. Kravchuk greeting world leaders and addressing the United Nations. Mr. Kravchuk was also fortunate during the campaign to have become the first former Soviet leader to have signed, amid great pomp, a partnership treaty with the European Union.

Mr. Kravchuk pressed for early Ukrainian membership of NATO's partnership for peace programme and backed peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia.

Mr. Kuchma opposes the dispatch of peacekeepers and speaks in favour of closer military and political links with Moscow. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, relations between Ukraine and Russia have often proved rocky, with disputes focusing on the



RUSSIAN PEACEKEEPERS: Two Russian peacekeepers sit next to their radio transmitter as they control the road to Inguri River, at Rukhi village in Georgia. First units of Russian peacekeepers arrived in the conflict zone on June 23 (AFP photo).

Berlin bids farewell to Russian troops

BERLIN (R) — Russian troops leaving Germany half a century after defeating Hitler's Nazis marched proudly through the streets of Berlin Saturday for the first time since their World War II victory parade. Goose-stepping to the triumphant strains of military bands, 1,500 troops wearing olive green dress uniforms and carrying Kalashnikov rifles paraded down a south-eastern Berlin avenue before an unexpectedly large and enthusiastic crowd of 40,000. Spectators warmly applauded the soldiers as they marched briskly past in the broiling midday sun.

Afterwards, many Germans handed anyone wearing a Russian uniform flowers, chocolate, cigarettes, beer and even cash — small yet moving reparations for the bread and soup Soviet troops gave to starving Germans in the early post-war days. The rousing procession, which included scores of anti-aircraft batteries and small tanks, was in sharp contrast to the less formal departure celebrations of the Western allies last week in central Berlin just west of the Brandenburg Gate.

There were no heavy weapons on display at least week's parade for the Western allies — the United States, Britain and France. That parade was watched by 75,000. The Russians had wanted to march together with Western allies in a grand reunion of the World War II allies, hoping to parade through the Brandenburg Gate where the Berlin Wall once stood. But they were rebuffed by German authorities.

The Western allies were also opposed, reluctant like many Germans and especially west Berliners to forget the Soviet troops role in supporting the division of the city and the maintenance of Communist rule in East Germany.

There was little talk of the cold war nor the division of Berlin at Saturday's parade, held in the distant southeastern district of Koepenick. Officials and spectators alike spoke of how the former Soviet forces had liberated Germany from Nazi tyranny. Berlin's governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen, who had opposed a joint parade, mentioned the sacrifices Soviet troops had made when they liberated Berlin from the Nazis, a theme repeatedly echoed by Russian leaders in their speeches.

"Your fathers and your grandfathers came as victors and liberators to our city. They ended the tyranny, opened the concentration camps and pursued Nazi criminals. This remains the achievement of all of you," he said.

General Matvei Buriakov, commander of the Russian forces in Germany, reminded Berlin of the Soviet army's enormous wartime losses. More than 20,000 soldiers were killed alone in the final days of the battle for Berlin, he said.

"We paid a heavy price for liberating Germany and Berlin from the fascists," Gen. Buriakov said.

The last of the 375,000 former Soviet troops stationed in east Germany since 1945 are to leave in September, just before the last of the 12,000 Western allied forces leave Berlin.

There are currently about 1,500 Russian troops in Berlin, down from a peak of 2,000. There are about 6,700 Russian troops left in the former east Germany. There are currently about 1,500 Russian troops in Berlin, down from a peak of 2,000. There are about 6,700 Russian troops left in the former east Germany.

Hata quits as Japan's premier

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata stepped down Saturday after 59 days in office to head off an imminent no-confidence vote, with one eye on a possible comeback with new bedfellows to beef up his minority coalition.

Hata's cabinet, embracing conservatives and centrists, resigned en bloc just before the House of Representatives was to debate a no-confidence motion proposed by the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). With the Group-of-Seven (G-7) summit in Naples two weeks ahead, political analysts believe parliament is likely to pick a new premier as soon as next week, and Mr. Hata has not ruled himself out of contention.

"I am one of the members of parliament myself and the head of a political party," Mr. Hata told reporters at his official residence, when asked if he would accept if parliament re-elected him. "Had it not been for the no-confidence motion, I would have remained in

office as I am," said the 58-year-old Hata whose cabinet will perform a caretaker role until the election of a new prime minister. Keiwa Okuda, a lieutenant in Mr. Hata's Renewal Party, did not mince words. "Mr. Hata is not just one of the candidates. He is the candidate."

At a press conference earlier Saturday, Mr. Hata announced the mass resignation, saying, "our urgent task is to create a new, stable government. I will leave it to the will of parliament."

"Weighing the fact that we are a minority ruling force, it is incumbent upon us to join hands with people who share policies in many aspects," Mr. Hata said.

The remarks reflected the coalition's professed wish to regroup with sympathetic elements within two major opposition parties, the LDP and the Social Democratic Party (SDP). The right-wing faction in the SDP, who called themselves the Democrats, vowed Saturday to seek a reunion with

the coalition. The ruling camp has repeatedly urged the SDP, which left the coalition just before Mr. Hata formed his cabinet on April 28, to return to the government.

The coalition renewed such calls earlier this week, but talks became bogged over the SDP demand that Mr. Hata's cabinet resign en masse as well as other policy differences, legislators said.

Following Mr. Hata's resignation, the LDP proposed talks on a new coalition government with the SDP. But there was no immediate agreement.

SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama told a news conference that his party welcomed the resignation and was ready to form a new cabinet with other groups. But he did not specify its possible partners.

"A stable government must be formed as soon as possible," the Socialist leader said. The SDP has repeatedly criticised the Hata government.

The LDP lost its four-decade grip on power in general elections in July last year following the passage of a no-confidence motion against Mr. Miyazawa, supported by mass defections from the ruling party.

Mr. Hosokawa announced his resignation in April after being grilled in parliament over a financial scandal.

analysts speculated that the SDP could align itself with the LDP and the New Party Sakigake, a small member of the previous coalition which opted to stay out of the current cabinet.

LDP President Yohei Kono said Saturday that his party would make further efforts to regain power.

"We will call on parties to end the political confusion promptly," he was quoted as telling a party meeting.

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Nigerian oil union calls for Abiola's release

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's powerful NUPENG oil and gas workers' union threatened industrial action Saturday to demand the immediate release of imprisoned Nigerian pro-democracy leader Moshood Abiola.

Mr. Abiola was jailed Thursday after holding a rally days after proclaiming himself president and vowing to form a government on the anniversary of last June's free elections which were annulled by the military government.

In a statement published by the daily Guardian newspaper, the president of the National Union of Petroleum and Gas Workers, Wariebi Koko Agamene, demanded the unconditional release of Mr. Abiola and other political detainees.

It also called on the military government to hand over power to Mr. Abiola "as the only elected president."

"Failure to meet the above demands immediately will definitely force the democratic forces in the country, including NUPENG, to take necessary actions deemed fit to check the situation."

The NUPENG National Executive Committee met Friday here and NUPENG Secretary General Frank Koko told the Guardian that a news conference would be held Monday to detail its conclusions.

of the cold war. But Mr. Weizsaecker, who will co-chair a commission on the future of the United Nations called by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali after he leaves office on June 30, told the daily BZ the majority of U.N. members came from the less developed southern hemisphere.

"If there are changes in the composition of the Security Council, the countries of the southern hemisphere must be taken account of above all," Mr. Weizsaecker said in the interview published Saturday.

The council now has five permanent members — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — who have veto power and 10 other members elected for two-year terms. A working group is drafting a proposal to boost the council to 20 or 25 members.

Mr. Weizsaecker also said travel industry officials said many of those remaining were of Haitian origin or members of religious organisations who have lived in Haiti for long periods.

A Canadian embassy official here said 800 to 850 Canadian nationals had left Haiti as of Friday out of a total of about 2,400 living in Haiti.

There were few departures among the 1,400 French nationals living in Haiti, according to diplomats and airline officials, who said there was no sign of panic among the French.

Observers here said the flight ban would affect the thousands of small merchants who make frequent shuttles to Miami, New York, Chicago or Caracas to buy goods for resale in Haiti.

The wealthy can no longer travel to the United States and Canada but they can survive financially, while the victims of these measures cannot," said one business leader who asked to remain anonymous.

As part of the sanctions imposed by Washington, the

U.S.-based Citibank and Bank of Boston closed their branches in Haiti. But the military backed government led by Interim President Emile Jonassaint has filed suit seeking to reopen the banks.

U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered a freeze on Haitian assets in the United States, adding to the \$50 limit on financial transfers to Haiti.

Raymond Roy, president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and a backer of Mr. Aristide, said the new measures were "shameful" because of their effect on the poor.

The White House meanwhile announced that Argentine President Carlos Menem, who met with Mr. Clinton in Washington Friday, has offered to provide troops if a U.N. peacekeeping force is sent to Haiti.

The two leaders agreed on the urgency of restoring democracy to Haiti and that a strengthened U.N. mission in Haiti could contribute importantly toward that shared goal," said a White House statement.

Meanwhile, caretaker Prime Minister Robert Malval said Friday that Haiti was paralysed by World Cup soccer mania and few, if any, changes were likely before the tournament ends on July 18.

"This country is demobilised by the World Cup," Mr. Malval said. "I think when we wake up on July 18, that's the end of the World Cup party, that will be the beginning of the end of the party here."

Mr. Malval said the recently tightened sanctions were starting to hit the rich.

"There is real panic. The people are beginning to get the message that this time it is serious," he said.

"Anything could happen here, so we are getting our children out while we have the chance," said Patrice, a Haitian-American doctor taking his wife and two young children to New York. "It's not too bad for us, those who really suffer are the ones who can never leave," he said. "We will come back when all this is over."

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South has top claim on U.N. seat — Weizsaecker

BONN (R) — Countries of the less developed southern hemisphere have a stronger claim than Germany to a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, outgoing German President Richard von Weizsaecker said in an interview.

Germany has been lobbying hard for a permanent seat to take account of its economic might and the political weight it has acquired with unification and the end

immoral behaviour," referring to the U.N. trade embargo and flight ban against Haiti.

The general has been trying to bolster morale among the troops at time when the international community has been tightening its economic embargo aimed at pressing the military to step aside and allow the reinstatement of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Mr. Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, was ousted in a September 1991 military coup led by Gen. Cedras. Mr. Aristide has been living in exile in the United States.

After the United States announced the flight ban, Canada followed suit, but France did not. Air France was to be the only carrier flying out of Haiti starting Saturday.

Ahead of the flight ban, the United States and Canada urged its nationals to leave Haiti but only about 3,000 of the 8,000 U.S. nationals registered at the U.S. embassy had left Haiti Friday.

Diplomatic sources and

Port-Au-Prince (AFP) — Armed Forces Chief General Raoul Cedras visited military garrisons Friday ahead of the ban on commercial flights into Haiti that goes into effect at midnight, military sources said.

Walls of sandbags were erected around the police headquarters and the National Palace while the troops engaged in training exercises that military sources said were in preparation for foreign military intervention.

State television meanwhile has been running daily spots aimed at stirring up nationalist sentiment and fears by showing images of civilians who were killed during the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama.

Gen. Cedras has for the past few days been visiting military garrisons around the country, stopping at the military academy, the National Palace, Dessalines Barracks, the air corp and the navy.

During his stops, the military source said the general sharply criticised the international community for its "emotional, irrational and

taken account of above all," Mr. Weizsaecker said in the interview published Saturday.

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Brazil tame the indomitable Lions, clinch 2nd round berth

STANFORD, California (AP) — Brazil played one period of good soccer against Cameroon.

After a lackluster first half, Brazil turned on the jets and blew out the "Indomitable Lions" of Cameroon 3-0 at Stanford Stadium Friday. After Romario fired the Brazilians ahead in the 39th minute, Marcio Santos headed the second in the 65th and Bebeto squeezed in the third in the 72nd.

The Brazilians became the first team to guarantee a berth in the second round of the cup with its second win in the games. The team beat Russia 2-0 Monday.

Cameroon, which got its only point in a tie with Sweden in its opening game, may have to win its final game against Russia to advance.

Veteran Cameroon striker Roger Milla made World Cup history as the oldest ever player at age 42 when he came on as a second-half substitute. He entered the game seconds after colleague Rigobert Song had been sent off for scything down Bebeto.

"If Brazil continues to play its own brand of soccer it's hard to see that we won't win the competition," striker Romario said. "Brazil is starting to look like a champion."

Well, not entirely. The first period was a sleeper except for Romario's goal.

"It was more difficult than the Russia game," said Brazil's coach Carlos Alberto Parreira. "They are a quick

team with good technique and tight marking. And they don't feel the heat like the European teams."

"During the first half we were nervous, it was very even and we had a lot of trouble," he said. "In the second half we improved a lot, playing with Bebeto more open on the right. Brazil improved a lot technically and tactically."

At first, fans who expected to see the touted offensive showcase must have thought they were at the wrong game.

Both teams started cautiously, as if wary of the other's firepower. Cameroon fouled early and often, and defender Stefan Tataw took a yellow card in the 8th minute for hauling down Mauro Silva from behind as the Brazilians started a break.

The Lions' 1.91-metre full-back Raymond Kalla Nkongo was a shadow to Brazilian striker Romario and kept him from unleashing a shot in the early going.

Neither team got near the other's goal until the 9th minute, when Brazilian forward Bebeto sent a right-footer over the crossbar.

The Brazilians claimed a penalty in the 13th minute when Dunga went down in the penalty area after a clumsy challenge by Rigobert Song but Mexican referee Arturo Brizio indicated he thought Dunga had dived. The 83,401 fans, mostly behind the Brazilians, jeered and whistled.

Cameroon did not get a shot until a harmless free kick in the 19th minute. But Brazil

failed to take advantage. "We had problems in the first period. We felt our rhythm was different," said midfielder Mauro Silva. "My concern was not to take a goal. It's Romario's function to kill the ball, and he does that better than anyone."

The "killer" came alive at the 39th minute.

Midfielder Dunga threaded a pass up the middle to a streaking Romario. He took it in full stride, waited until keeper Joseph-Antoine Bell charged then and calmly tapped it into the left corner.

Four minutes later, striker Bebeto wasted a breakaway when his right-footer from the top of the box sailed harmlessly over the crossbar. Kalla Nkongo was booked for rough play. But the Brazilians too collected two yellow cards. Bebeto for a foul and Mauro Silva for handling the ball.

Brazil was a different team in the second half. With Bebeto fixed on the right wing, the offense suddenly clicked.

In the 51st minute, fullback Aldair, playing for injured starter Ricardo Rocha, worked a brilliant give-and-go with Bebeto for a shot that Bell tipped wide.

Jorginho broke swiftly down the right after the Brazilians intercepted the ball in midfield but, with Romario and Bebeto unmarked in front of goal, his low cross was cut out by a defender.

Bebeto then sent Leonardo breaking through on the left but Tataw saved the situation



Brazilian player Dunga and Rai (background) watch as the Cameroon defender Marc Vivien Foe kicks the ball away during their World Cup match at Stanford Friday (AP photo)

for Cameroon at the expense of a corner.

Marcio Santos moved up to meet the flag kick and headed just too high.

Brazil's pressure was beginning to get to the Cameroon defense and Song was sent off in the 64th for crunching Bebeto as the striker raced down the right flank.

That left an avenue in the Lions' defense, and Brazil drove through.

"It demoralized us because now it was 10 against 11 and we couldn't slow them down," said striker David Embe.

Embe was replaced in the 65th minute by Milla, the darling of Cameroon's Cinderella team in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, when he scored four goals. But he had been on the field for only a few seconds when Brazil struck again.

Mexico beat Ireland 2-1 to keep hopes alive

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Luis Garcia kept Mexico's World Cup hopes alive Friday, scoring two sparkling goals from long range in a 2-1 win over Ireland, which wilted in the sweltering heat of the Citrus Bowl greenhouse.

Veteran striker John Aldridge held Ireland in the game up to the end with a header in the 83rd minute, but Irish legs were too drained, and goalkeeper Jorge Campos too hot, to score during a final onslaught.

"The Mexicans didn't beat us, the weather did," complained Ireland's coach Jack Charlton.

"We showed extraordinary spirit," said coach Miguel Mejia Baron after his team came from the cellar of Group E to the top with the win.

All four teams in the group now have three points after two games, setting up an exciting finale when the final first-round games are played simultaneously Tuesday. Ireland plays Norway and Italy meets Mexico.

"We will enjoy the moment but we have to look into the future and hope the future only brings good things for us," Baron said.

Mexico broke open the game in the 44th minute when Garcia capped the first

smooth combination play with a scorching right-foot drive from 20 metres.

From the right, Marcelino Bernal centred to the middle where veteran forward Carlos Hermosillo shook off his defender and set up the ball perfectly for the unflinching Garcia. Goalkeeper Packie Bonner had no chance.

"We ran out of steam when they scored just before half-time," said Charlton.

Ireland tired visibly in the 44-degree C temperatures on the Citrus Bowl pitch, allowing Mexico ever more space to flaunt its technical skills.

In the 65th minute, Alberto Garcia Aspe found Garcia wide open in the centre, and from 18 metres out, his low right-foot shot was lethal again.

After an unlucky loss to Norway, "the attack showed more initiative now," said Baron.

"They scored at crucial times," said Charlton.

The sold-out 61,129-capacity Citrus Bowl was a sea of green, with fans from both teams sporting their traditional colours, but Ireland had to play in white.

The second goal completely cut Ireland's legs and some players, and Charlton lost their cool, bitterly complaining against officials.

Bonner made a couple of great saves to prevent the

game from turning into a rout.

Against the run of play, Ireland came back in the game when substitutes Jason McAteer and Aldridge combined on a typical Irish goal. McAteer centred from the right and from some 10 metres Aldridge scored with a powerful downward header.

Ireland played its traditional early pressure game as long as it could in the steaming conditions, often forcing Mexico back deep in its own half early on. On offence, however, it had little energy left to create chances.

When it did, goalkeeper Campos was unbeatable.

Ireland came close in the 38th minute, when Andy Townsend sent a dangerous bouncing header towards the low corner. But the catquick Campos, pulled off a brilliant one-handed save to push the ball wide.

In the 57th minute, Campos had to make a diving save on a John Sheridan break-through.

A minute from time, Campos made the save that clinched the match on a drive from Townsend.

In the first half, Mexico displayed good individual skills but failed to combine play like a team for most of the game.



Mexican soccer fans clash with police Friday at the Monument of Independence in Mexico City after the Mexican

national soccer team beat Ireland 2-1 in their World Cup match in Orlando, Florida (AP photo)

Clashes mar Mexican celebration

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Hundreds of rowdy World Cup fans battled riot police, hurling rocks and bottles Friday as an impromptu party by tens of thousands celebrating Mexico's victory over Ireland turned violent.

At last 36 people were injured as police clubbed and punched youthful fans who marred an otherwise joyous street fiesta in a heavy down-

pour after Mexico's 2-1 first-round victory in Orlando, Florida.

"Oh, my leg, my leg," cried Lupita Lopez, a 40-year-old woman hit by a bottle as thousands of people surged around the 12-story Monument of Independence, a stone column capped by a sculpture of a gilded angel.

Within minutes of the victory, which revived Mexico's hopes of advancing to the second round of the tournament, tens of thousands surged from offices, restaurants and homes, converging on the monument that is a traditional rallying point for soccer fans.

There were similar victory celebrations around Mexico. In the state capital of Guadalajara, thousands of celebrating fans crowded around the city's Minerva Fountain, snarling traffic on the 13 streets that feed into it.

The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party took advantage of the occasion to hire a band that played music for the crowd.

At least 12 people were injured in the crush of celebrants in Guadalajara, three of them seriously, police said. But there were no signs of clashes between celebrants and some 400 unarmed police dispatched to provide crowd control.

In Mexico City, mariachi music erupted as more than 200 riot police behind plastic shields ringed the grassy traffic circle, home to the monument, and eyed the fast-growing throng.

Thousands massed around the monument on the Paseo de la Reforma, the city's main east-west thoroughfare, but most fled down the tree-lined avenue and into side streets when the violence erupted.

Gleeful shouts of "Viva Mexico" turned to screams as scuffling broke out among a surging crowd and the riot police and some rowdy youths began to break through the lines of baton-wielding officers and run up the grassy knoll.

The without warning, police charged up the knoll

and forced the people to flee. "Jerks jerks" people shouted in the surging crowd as firecrackers exploded and thousands of peaceful fans ran.

Violent fans in the largely peaceful crowd then counter attacked police with a fierce barrage of shattering bottles, bricks, rocks and shoes, smashing against the riot shields.

One fan hit by a bottle stumbled away, his face bleeding. Plainclothes officers punched and kicked in return during the nearly two-hour battle, and one officer roughly grabbed a youth by his hair and led him away.

The police were outnumbered, however. Hundreds of celebrants broke through police lines and climbed up the base of the monument, waving 15-foot (5-metre) Mexican flags and shouting curses as the riot officers withdrew and vanished from the scene.

Sixteen people were treated for cuts, bruises and blows, including four children, said a Red Cross doctor who spoke on condition of not being named.

Authorities said at least 20 riot police were also injured and that an unspecified number of arrests were made.

A riot-control team of 1,200 officers with patrol cars, horses and dogs was called out for the post-match celebrations, bolstering the 18,000 regular patrolmen in Mexico City.

For hours after police withdrew, traffic on most central avenues was snarled. Fifteen people danced on the roof of one hijacked city bus and dozens of others inside waved Mexican flags as it drove slowly past the cheering, horn-blowing crowds along Reforma.

"All Mexico is celebrating, no one is working today," said Pablo Cabrera, 30, an advertising director in suit and tie who joined with waitresses, mariachi performers, stockbrokers and students in the frenzied celebrations.

Similar celebrations erupted in 1970 and 1986 when Mexico hosted the World Cup tournament.

Swedes virtually assured of advancing after beating Russia

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Friday was midsummer's eve in Sweden, the biggest holiday of the year and a day for celebrations.

Especially when the national team beats Russia 3-1 for its first World Cup victory in 20 years.

But the Swedish team will put the herring, schnapps and other traditional Swedish midsummer's eve offerings on hold.

"We always celebrate when we have a victory," coach Tommy Svensson said. "But we'll take it easy and be careful because we have another game Tuesday."

"The boys are serious. We're already thinking about the next game. We want to win this group."

Striker Martin Dahlin, whose two headers virtually clinched a second-round place for the Swedes, agreed. "This is the World Cup," he said. "You don't celebrate in the World Cup until after the final."

While the result virtually assured Sweden of advancing, it all but eliminated the Russians and will force the

resignation of their coach, Pavel Sadyrin.

"Sadyrin will hand his resignation when we return to Russia," a senior team official who demanded anonymity told the Associated Press after Friday's loss. "If he doesn't resign, the Russian federation is likely to replace him."

Sadyrin's leadership of the Russians has been in trouble since late last year when 15 veteran players led a boycott of the squad, demanding more pay and the resignation of Sadyrin because of alleged incompetence.

Four key players — foreign-based Andrei Kanchelskis, Sergei Kiriyakov, Igor Kolyvanov and Igor Shalimov — refused to back down and remained off the team.

For the Swedes though, it was all smiles.

Dahlin, who also scored Sweden's late equaliser in a 2-2 tie with Cameroon Sunday, headed the Swedes in front with a low glancing header in the 60th minute and powered in another eight minutes from the end.

Dahlin, who in 1991 became the first black Swede to appear on the national team, credited teammates Jonas Thern and Kennet Andersson for setting up the goals.

"They were two great crosses. It was not difficult for me," said Dahlin, who earlier this year had a hat trick after three headers in a Bundesliga game for Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Dahlin collected his second yellow card of the tournament and will miss the third first-round game against Brazil Tuesday.

Svensson said Dahlin had a great performance.

"He's had a lot of good performances," Svensson said. "Perhaps this was one of the best, if not the best."

It was Sweden's first World Cup tournament victory since they beat Yugoslavia 2-1 in 1974.

Salenko fired the Russians ahead from the penalty spot in the fourth minute and Tomas Brodin levelled, also from the spot, in the 39th. It was the third goal in the last four games for Brodin, who

played a more defensive role in midfield this time.

Russia, a 2-0 loser to Brazil, has no points from two games and Sweden has four from two. Brazil, which beat Cameroon 3-0 earlier Friday, has six points from two victories and Cameroon has one from two.

The game was less than a minute old when Russian defender Sergei Gorlukovich was shown the yellow card for deliberately handling the ball during a challenge in the air. Five minutes after half time he was sent off after the latest of a series of fouls.

Salenko's goal at the indoor Pontiac Silverdome before 71,528 fans, including several thousand Swedes, gave the Russians an unexpected early boost, however.

Roger Ljung challenged Alexander Borodink near the 6-metre line and the Russian striker went down. French referee Joel Quiniou said it was a penalty and Salenko stroked in the spot kick almost casually.

"It was a tough penalty," said goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, who was making his

Overheard at Turino...



Turino restaurant in Sweifish has announced a special occasion promotion offer for the World-Cup '94 football games. Any guest or host having lunch or dinner at Turino will be given a free lottery ticket to participate in a raffle to win a round trip, two-way ticket Amman-Rome aboard Royal Jordanian.

Tickets will be given to diners at Turino until the closing ceremony of the

World Cup '94 on 17 July.

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Bulgaria, Greece try to rebound from thrashings

CHICAGO (R) — Bulgaria and Greece, probably the least impressive teams at the World Cup finals, will try to put opening match thrashings behind them Sunday in an all-or-nothing clash in Group D.

Defeat for either squad will effectively mean their early exit from the 24-team tournament. Both coaches were dismayed by their teams' lack of fight in their debut matches and plan to shake up their sides to inject more pace and ideas.

"Our ambitions are very serious and we want to beat Greece because that is our only chance of going into the second round," Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev said. "But they are also playing to win and this will make our task very difficult."

Greek coach Alkatis Panagoulis will make up to four changes, switching from the defence-oriented plan in Greece's World Cup finals debut against Argentina.

Greece were unlucky enough to be the first to play the new-look, go-for-goals Argentina and were roundly

thrashed 4-0. Bulgaria were run ragged by Nigeria, losing 3-0.

Penev was not impressed by his side's lack of fire in the second half and has warned he plans to at least make one change in midfield and one in defence to raise the team's tempo.

Even allowing for the upsets that have prepared USA '94, it is hard to see Greece beating Nigeria and Bulgaria overcoming Argentina in their final first-round games.

A draw would leave both sides with little hope of proceeding further and Panagoulis plans to go on the attack.

"We're going to change our tactics. We played too conservatively against Argentina — we can't play like that again," said Panagoulis, who has also had to shake his players out of a dangerous complacency.

Team officials said the 22 players in the squad appeared to believe they had achieved their World Cup goal when they became the first Greek side to qualify for the finals.

Ilias Atmatsides is expected to replace Antonis Minou in goal and the changes throughout the rest of the side will aim to increase its mobility, speed and attacking potential.

This will probably mean Tasos Mitropoulos, the old man of the squad at 36, will play from the start after coming on late in the Argentina game as a substitute.

Bulgaria's key players Hristo Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov will be closely marked but Greece is unlikely to repeat the man-to-man marking that failed completely against Argentina's Diego Maradona and Gabriel Batistuta.

Penev's options for beefing up the attack have been cut by an ankle injury suffered by Nasko Sirakov.

Sirakov is unlikely to play and Penev may decide to push Ivailo Vordanov up front and include either Boncho Genchev or Georgi Georgiev in midfield to give the attack more bite.

Switzerland's first World Cup success since beating Italy 4-1 in Basle in 1954 hoisted them to the top of the group, and English coach Roy Hodgson was expected to name the same side that triumphed over Romania.

Probable teams
Colombia: Oscar Cordoba; Andres Escobar, Luis Herrera, Luis Carlos Perea, Wilson Perez, Herman Gaviria, Carlos Valderrama, Leonel Alvarez, Freddy Rincon, Antony de Avila, Faustina Asprilla.
Switzerland: Marco Pascolo; Marc Hotiger, Yvan Quentin, Dominique Herr, Alain Geiger, Georges Bregy, Alain Sutter, Christophe Ohrel, Adrian Knapp, Ciriaco Sforza, Stephane Chausat.

Colombia had not lost two successive games since being beaten by Brazil and Argentina in the 1991 Copa America South American championship.

Maturana, who takes over as coach at Atletico Madrid next season after his second spell in charge of Colombia, could offer no plausible explanation for the sudden loss of form.

"It's true we had a lot of outside interference but that's nothing new. We just never got going. We were too elaborate in our first game and made mistakes and panicked in the second," he said.

Colombia had not lost two successive games since being beaten by Brazil and Argentina in the 1991 Copa America South American championship.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠97 108765 ♠KQ ♠KJ8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 1 2

What do you bid now?
A.—This depends on your methods. If you play limit raises, this hand just qualifies. If you do not, settle for a raise to two hearts, else it's a maximum. Anything else would distort the bidding.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠97 108765 ♠KQ ♠KJ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South East North West
Pass Pass 1 Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Partnership agreements have little impact on decisions by a passed hand. Since a jump to three hearts here is no longer forcing, making it, in effect, a limit raise, we would now choose that bid regardless of methods.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A982 ♠A52 ♠Q1083
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 1 1 2

What action do you take?
A.—Even though partner has shown a balanced minimum, game is still a possibility should partner be at the top of his range. You can convey that with an invitational raise to two no trump.

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AK753 ♠K6 ♠K9742 ♠4
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 1 2

What action do you take?
A.—Possession of the spade suit confers so many advantages in the auction that the modern tendency is to overcall rather than double whenever you hold a five-card spade suit. This holding also has some lead-directing benefits, so we would opt for one spade.

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K9742 ♠K6 ♠AK753 ♠4
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 1 2

What action do you take?
A.—Here our spade suit is so anemic that we would downgrade the holding to four-card status—we wouldn't want partner competing further in the suit with only a doubleton. As a result, our choice would be a take-out double.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A109762 ♠85 ♠KQ ♠A42
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—If partner had a maximum no-trump opening with good spade support, he would have made an advance cue-bid instead of simply raising. That would suggest slam is out of reach, so any move by you might jeopardize a secure game contract. Pass.

Romanian desperadoes take aim at the U.S.

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — The United States, euphoric after their 2-1 upset of Colombia, will run into a Romanian side fighting for their lives when they meet in their final Group A match here Sunday.

The aftermath of America's first World Cup win in 44 years, over opponents tipped as contenders for the title, was as warm as the sunshine at their southern California headquarters.

While they basked in both, the Romanians headed back on their second trip across three time zones, looking for redemption after their disastrous 4-1 loss to Switzerland in Detroit.

"We have a hard task ahead of us with our game against the USA," said Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu. "We need at least one point against the USA. We have few days to recover and we have to again change time zones."

Iordanescu said the loss to Switzerland was largely due to individual mistakes.

As of Friday, he was offering no clues as to any tactical adjustments or team changes, though Romania will be without forward Ion Viadoin, who was sent off against Switzerland.

"I would say individual errors determined the result," he said. "There were many of them, but we will examine them closely and will not make them in the next game."

The United States are almost certain to qualify after their victory over Colombia and a draw with the Swiss.

If they could win Group A — a thought unimaginable less than a week earlier — they would play their second-round match in the Rose Bowl and not have to move camp.

"It's important to end up number one in our group," said Ernie Stewart, who scored the winner against Colombia. "Then we can stay in Los Angeles."

But coach Bora Milutinovic said the only real concern was getting through.

"The important thing is to be in," he said. "I wouldn't worry about what position to be in."

The United States know that if Romania succeed in rectifying their mistakes, and have a good game from star midfielder George Hagi they will be hard to beat.

Romania is pretty much known as a team who one day is hot and one day is not altogether, and that's what they have shown so far in the World Cup," said U.S. assistant coach Sig Schmid. "So you're not sure which Romania is going to show up, the one that beat Colombia or the one that sort of fell apart a little bit when they played the Swiss."

"But for sure, Romania is a team that can be very dangerous, and we have to be prepared."

Schmid said he did not think the U.S. team would suffer from let-down in the wake of their Colombia win.

"We're still relatively new to international successes and I don't think we're overconfident," he said.

The match will be the U.S. team's 100th international since they were knocked out of the 1990 World Cup in three first-round defeats.

Marcelo Balboa, whose near-goal with a spectacular overhead kick was a highlight of the clash with Colombia, will reach a personal milestone if he is named to the starting team, equalling Bruce Murray's record for caps with 93.

Belgium advance to World Cup 2nd round; Saudis stun Morocco

ORLANDO (Agencies) — Belgium beat arch-rivals the Netherlands 1-0 in an exciting duel Saturday and ensured their passage into the second round of the World Cup.

Defender Philippe Albert, who missed Belgium's opening 1-0 win over Morocco in the sweltering Orlando Citrus Bowl last Sunday, pounced in the 66th minute to give his side a six-point tally from two games in Group F.

Marc Degryes, scorer of the winner against Morocco, took a corner on the left which was headed on for Albert to hook home from inside the penalty area.

In New York, Mohammad Al Deayea, the goalkeeper whose blunder cost Saudi Arabia their opening match against the Netherlands,

turned hero as the Gulf kingdom claimed a 2-1 win over Morocco here Saturday.

The Moroccan, vastly more experienced than their rivals in the first all-Arab World Cup clash, spent most of the match camped in the Saudi half.

But apart from Mohammad Chaouch's 27th minute tap-in they could not find a way past the inspired Al Deayea and they were left to bitterly regret a series of squandered first half chances and the terrible error by their own keeper that led to the Saudi winner.

Khalil Azmi completely misjudged Fuad Amin Anwar's hopeful 30-metre drive in first half injury time and allowed it to fly past him at waist height in the centre

of his goal.

It was the second time the Saudis, playing in their first World Cup finals, had taken the lead completely against the run of play.

The talented Moroccans, who had come so close to beating Belgium in their opening match, were stunned when Sami Al Jaber won then converted a 7th minute penalty.

The Saudi striker chested down a long through ball on his side's first attack of the match, burst into the box and set to shoot before being sent crashing to the ground by Noureddine Naybet's clumsy challenge.

Al Jaber got up and slotted the ball past Azmi to give Saudi Arabia the lead.

Sampras, Becker, Navratilova into 4th round at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Immune to the rash of Wimbledon upsets, top-seeded Pete Sampras and nine-time champion Martina Navratilova cruised through third-round matches Saturday.

Sampras trounced fellow American Chuck Adams, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4, in a match suspended by rain late Friday.

The defending champion has yet to lose a set in his three matches, winning the last two in less than 90 minutes.

"Hopefully I can maintain this level — I've played extremely solid," he said. But he described his fourth-round foe, hard-serving Czech Daniel Vacek, as "extremely dangerous."

Navratilova, seeking her 10th title at the age of 37,

triumphed 6-3, 6-2 over American Liny Harvey-Wild, who had won the only previous match between them. Like Sampras, Navratilova has not lost a set yet, and has a clear shot at the title following the first-round ouster of top-seeded defending champion Steffi Graf.

The new favourite, no. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, routed Nancy Feber of Belgium, 6-2, 6-1, but needed treatment during the match for a sore shoulder.

Fifth-seeded Jana Novotna, who broke into tears after blowing a 4-1 third-set lead over Graf in last year's final, fought back from a second-set lapse to beat Dominique Monami of Belgium, 6-0, 4-6, 6-0.

Novotna appeared to be

floundering when Monami took a 4-0 lead in the second set, but the Czech saved six set points and extended the set to 65 minutes before losing it, then overpowered her 21-year-old foe while losing only seven points in the third set.

Three-time champion Boris Becker and No. 9 seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine each won to set up a fourth-round showdown. Becker, the No. 7 seed, beat Javier Frana of Argentina, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, 6-3, and Medvedev defeated Richard Fromberg of Australia, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

In the big match for home-country fans, Jeremy Bates became the first British man to win on centre court since 1985.

European clubs clamour for U.S. World Cup players

MISSION VIEJO, California (R) — European soccer clubs have made at least four offers, one worth more than \$1 million, to sign U.S. players after their surprise World Cup showing, the American team manager said Friday.

"We have four bona-fide offers for players from clubs in Europe," Bill Nuttall told reporters at the U.S. training camp. America look set to reach the second round after beating Colombia 2-1 and drawing with Switzerland 1-1 in Group A.

"These are players who are under contract to the (U.S. soccer) federation," he said, declining to identify the players or clubs.

Nine of the U.S. squad's 22 World Cup players are contracted to clubs overseas and are paid a flat \$1,000 per appearance for the United States.

For example, John Harkes and Roy Wegerle play in England while Tab Ramos plays in Spain, Eric Wynalda in Germany, Ernie Stewart in the Netherlands and Ciriaco Sforza in Mexico.

The other 13 players have contracts with the federation and earn between \$3,000 and \$6,500 a month.

"All the offers are worth half a million dollars plus, and the highest is for \$1.1 million," said Nuttall. The U.S. federation stood to get 90 per cent of any transfer fees.

"I am getting three inquiries a day about players, but until they are concrete offers I don't tell the players."

"Of course we will do all we can to make our players stay around for the (proposed) MLS (major league soccer) or maybe work out some kind of loan option."

But if it's a good offer it's up to the player," said Nuttall.

One player who could be on the shopping list of several European clubs is surprise American midfielder Mike Sorber, who has played in both the Americans' matches so far.

"I have not had any real thoughts about it, as I am focused on the World Cup, but there has been some interest," he told Reuters.

"I'm inclined to stay here and help the new league, but if we do well, I've got to take care of my future. Maybe there would be a year before it starts and it would be a challenge to play in Spain or Germany."



U.S. player Ernie Stewart (centre) and teammates Tom Dooley (left) and John Harkes after scoring the second goal for the U.S. in their match against Colombia Thursday at the Rose Bowl. The U.S. won 2-1 (AFP photo)

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